LIFESTYLE / C2

Taking the high road with California wine

NEWS / A4

Imelda, 3 Marcos children face trial for P51-B ill-gotten wealth

METRO / A21

Liz Almoro, Willie Revillame's wife, sues him for 'abuse'

BUSINESS / B1

Expanded VAT nets P48B in Jan.-Aug.; gov't on track to meet 2006 target

Shun Aswang Festival, Church tells Capiz folk

ANG PANGIT NAMAN NG FESTIVAL NA YAN!

By Felipe V. Celino
Inquirer Visayas

ROXAS CITY—THE Catholic Church here urged its members to oppose the third Aswang Festival scheduled for Oct. 27-28 by holding prayer vigils in

SHUN/ A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY
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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
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4 workers in US-funded road project abducted

By Ed General and Julie S. Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

JOLO, SULU—GUNMEN KIDNAPPED FOUR Filipinos working on a US-funded road project, Sulu Gov. Benjamin Loong said yesterday.

The six kidnappers struck on Tuesday afternoon while the victims were driving back to Jolo in a

4 WORKERS/ A10

SC chief admits pressure on people's initiative

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME COURT IS FEELING THE heat generated by the battle between groups for and against overhauling the Constitution through a signature campaign or people's initiative.

Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban yesterday admitted to receiving "some pressure," but said this would not affect the independence of the court, which, he added, would resolve the matter by the end of next week.

"Yes, there's pressure from people who are interested ... but the court is used to pressure," Panganiban told justice reporters on the sidelines of an international judicial forum sponsored by the Supreme Court.

Malacañang is supporting Charter change (Cha-cha) either through the people's initiative or Congress turning itself into a constituent assembly—two of the three modes of amending the 1987 Constitution. The third mode is through a constitutional convention whose delegates are elected.

Panganiban did not say whether the pressure was coming from groups asking the high court to reverse the ruling of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) against changing the Constitution through a signature campaign.

Panganiban said the pressure "will not impede the court in deciding the case." Ten of the 15 members of the high court are appointees of Ms Arroyo.

The Chief Justice said the court would treat the Charter change issue "the same way we treated three high-profile cases in May with importance."

He was referring to the cases involving the Presidential Proclamation No. 1017, which placed the country under a state of national emergency in the third week of February; Executive Order No. 464, which barred officials from testifying in Congress without the President's go signal; and the calibrated preemptive response policy, which prohibited protest rallies without permits.

SC CHIEF/ A19

CHIEF JUSTICE Panganiban: How to keep cool inside a pressure cooker.

Palace holds off use of force in Makati

Binay may be evicted if he is not out by Friday

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Norman Bordadora, Tarra V. Quismundo and Jocelyn R. Uy

FACED WITH MAYOR JEJOMAR BINAY'S DEFIANCE, THE government yesterday said it hoped the suspended city executive would peacefully leave the Makati City Hall to avoid being forcibly evicted from his 21st floor redoubt by Friday.

While bent on enforcing its preventive suspension order against Binay, Malacañang, at the same time, appeared to be holding off using force as hundreds of employees returned to work in a City Hall ruled by two men—one backed by President Macapagal-Arroyo and the other, by opposition forces.

In a press conference late last night, Binay said the suspension order came no less than from Ms Arroyo.

"It is very clear and undeniable that it is GMA that authorized the order," he said, adding that the order was signed by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita "upon the authority of GMA."

"Mayor Binay is a lawyer, he is a known political leader. I'm sure he will be wise enough to make a wise decision *na hindi makakaabot sa pwersahan* (that won't lead to the use of force)," Ermita said in reaction to Binay's claim that the government would have to kill him first to get him out of City Hall.

Asked if the authorities would force Binay out if he failed within the next three days to get a court order restraining Malacañang, Ermita said: "We are duty-bound to serve the law. We will let the DILG (Department of the Interior and Local Government) handle the situation. I'm sure they have their own plans. I cannot say that (he would be bodily carried out) because I don't want to preempt Secretary Ronaldo Puno."

PALACE/ A8

REM ZAMORA

WHO'S CALLING THE SHOTS? Makati City Hall is now open for business as usual on orders of the suspended Mayor Binay but who continues to be entrenched in his office on the 21st floor.

AFP, DILG hit Binay's 'illegal' fashion sense

By Dona Pazzibugan, Norman Bordadora and Philip C. Tubeza

AN OPPOSITION LEADER YESTERDAY said suspended Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay could become a rallying point for antigovernment forces, while administration defenders dismissed Binay as a sloppy dresser who could even be charged in court for illegally wearing a military uniform.

A Marine Corps reservist with the rank of a colonel, Binay wore the upper garment of a Marine battle fatigues unbuttoned when he faced the media after Malacañang ordered his preventive suspension the other day. The dress bore a name patch and the insignia of a colonel on the collar.

For that, Binay could be charged with violation of Article of War No. 97 or conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline, according to military public information chief Lt.

AFP/ A8

Cabinet revamp: Yap back to DA

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Christine O. Avendaño and Christine A. Gaylican

THERE ARE MAJOR CHANGES IN THE Cabinet.

Presidential Management Staff Director General Arthur Yap is going back to his old post as agriculture secretary 15 months after he gave up the plum portfolio to personally handle a tax evasion complaint lodged against his family.

Malacañang announced President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to appoint Yap in place of the incumbent, Domingo Panganiban, who has yet to be confirmed by the Commission on Appointments since taking over the Department of Agriculture in July 2005.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita also announced late last night that Panganiban will be the lead convenor of the National Anti-Poverty Commission in place of Cerge Remonde, who will replace Yap as PMS chief.

Among those also affected in the latest Palace reshuffle was one of Ms Arroyo's known pet officials, Ma. Elena Bautista, the feisty chair of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regu-

CABINET/ A19

Senate plans to probe PCGG's 20-year record

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Alcuin Papa

HAVING WON ITS CASE IN THE Supreme Court, the Senate is preparing to widen the scope of the investigation of the Presidential Commission on Good Government to cover the PCGG's performance in its 20-year existence, Sen. Richard Gordon said yesterday.

Gordon said the Senate would not order the arrest of PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio (who is in the United States) and the three commissioners just yet. He said it would do so only if they snub the hearing to be held after sessions resume on Nov. 6.

But PCGG Commissioners Narciso Nario, Ricardo Abcede and Nicasio Conti expressed willingness to finally face the Senate.

SENATE/ A19

ANTIPOVERTY EFFORTS

UN honors 10 RP towns, cities

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE 42,000 VILLAGERS OF MAITUM, Sarangani, are quietly showing poverty is not an excuse for not having access to health care or reducing high child mortality and malnutrition rates.

In focusing on taking care of their children as a way of ensuring a solid future, the people of Maitum in one of the country's most impoverished provinces have also started reaping recognition.

Maitum is one of the 10 local government units to receive a special citation from the United Nations which recognizes efforts to fulfill a global promise to eradicate poverty by 2015.

This is the first time that the United Nations, in coordination with the Gawad Galing Pook, gave special citations for efforts to achieve the millennium development goals.

Gawad is an annual nationwide awards program recognizing local government practices since 1994

Drafted by the United Nations and its member-countries in 2000, the challenge was specified into eight Millennium Development Goals:

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
- Achieve universal primary education.
- Promote gender equality and empowering women.
- Reduce child mortality.
- Improve maternal health.
- Combat the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.
- Ensure environmental sustainability.

UN HONORS/ A10

TWO FACES OF WOMEN: One weary scavenger at the garbage dump in the Baseco compound in Tondo, Manila, and the other a ritzy poster girl. JOAN BONDOC

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Luzon will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/10/18/06

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2006

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Bomb blasts blamed on JI

By Alcuin Papa

THE POLICE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THE SERIES OF BOMB EXplosions in Central Mindanao last week was the handiwork of the al-Qaida-backed Jemaah Islamiyah regional terror group.

Bomb experts were able to establish that the three bombs that exploded in Tacurong City, Makilala, and in Cotabato City bore the "signature" of the Jemaah Islamiyah, said Supt. Albert Ferro, chief of the Philippine Bomb Data Center (PBDC).

In a related development, the Philippine National Police has confidently declared that Metro Manila was safe despite text messages circulating about a possible bomb attack on a large shopping mall and a military report of a bombing campaign by Muslim extremists.

In fact, Director Gen. Oscar Calderon is so confident that he said the full alert status of the PNP in Metro Manila would be downgraded either late yesterday or today.

He said Metro Manila was safe and that police had no definite information about a threat of a bomb attack though the PNP was acting to counter the threats.

Bomb diagrams

In the case of the Central Mindanao bombings, Ferro said investigators were able to come up with a "schematic diagram" of the bombs and reconstruct the relationships between their components.

"The 81mm mortar rounds which we found..and the mode of detonation using a cell phone is relatively similar to JI make and type of improvised explosive devices," he told a press briefing.

Ferro said the bombers may have sourced the mortar rounds from those "left behind" from Armed Forces' campaigns against the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

"They recycle these and they use these as the main charge of their IEDs [improvised explosive devices]," he said.

Calderon said police believe the recent Central Mindanao bomb attacks were carried out by a rogue group inside the MILF and may not have been sanctioned by the organization.

"We believe this is just the work of some groups within the organization who are sympathetic to the JI. So it would not be fair to generalize that the whole MILF was behind the activity," he said.

The military said last week that the bombings were carried out by the JI and the Abu Sayyaf kidnap gang in retaliation against the arrest of the Indonesian wife of JI bomb expert Dulmatin and to distract the authorities from operations in Sulu against the two groups.

Reports said JI members Dulmatin and Umar Patek, the alleged masterminds of the 2002 bombings in Bali, Indonesia, were being aided by the ASG, led by leader Khaddafy Janjalani, in trying to elude a military dragnet.

Besides the Bali bombings, the JI is believed to be responsible for the August 2000 assassination attempt on Philippine ambassador to Indonesia Leonides Caday, the September 2000 attack on the Jakarta Stock Exchange, and the 2003 Marriot hotel bombing, also in Indonesia.

Authorities said the JI is receiving aid from the al-Qaida international terror network of Osama Bin Laden.

The ASG is also said to be responsible for the Superferry bombings in 2004 and the Valentine's Day bombings in 2005.

Calderon said the police alert status would be downgraded to a heightened alert from full alert.

A full alert means the entire police force has to stay at their posts at all times and no leaves would be granted. A heightened alert means half of the force would stay at their posts at all times.

Text message

"This is not to alarm the citizens of Metro Manila but to make them aware that there are still threats here. But I would say that we are on top of the situation," he said.

According to the text messages, a member of the Abu Sayyaf who had surrendered had revealed the group's plans in Metro Manila, including an attack on a large shopping mall in Mandaluyong.

But Calderon said the text messages were part of a "disinformation" campaign.

Calderon also mentioned a report from the British embassy that terrorists were in the final stages of carrying out an attack in Mindanao.

"They (British officials) might have their own basis. But as far as we are concerned, Metro Manila is still safe. Mindanao will remain on heightened alert status," he said.

He said he has yet to see a military report that said two members of the Rajah Sulaiman Movement (RSM), a group of Christian converts to Islam that is allied with the Abu Sayyaf and the Jemaah Islamiyah, were believed to be hiding outside Metro Manila and to be constructing bombs to carry out attacks.

"We always consider Metro Manila in our studies. When there is trouble in Mindanao, Metro Manila is a traditional target. But then, we have no specific information about the alleged members of the RSM who are in Metro Manila," he said.

Moro rebs protest raps vs MILF chief

MUSLIM GUERRILLAS YESTERday protested their chieftain's inclusion in a criminal complaint filed in connection with recent bomb attacks in the southern Philippines, warning it could endanger already-stalled peace talks.

Police filed a murder complaint on Tuesday against Moro Islamic Liberation Front chairman Al Haj Murad and several suspected MILF commanders for allegedly plotting the Oct.10 bombing that killed six people and wounded 29 in North Cotabato.

Rebel spokesman Eid Kabalu denied Murad was involved in the attacks and warned of a "total breakdown" in the Malaysian-brokered peace talks if the government pursues criminal charges against the rebel leader.

He said the MILF would ask the government to withdraw Murad's name from the complaint and is checking to see if any of the other alleged militants named in the complaint are MILF members.

"If they pursue this, it may lead to a total breakdown in the peace process," Kabalu said.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, reacting to the MILF, said he would "look into this ... whether clearance was given (by Malacañang for police to file the charges against Murad) because it infringes on a higher activity, which is the negotiations with the MILF."

He said he was also inclined to believe that "only specific elements" and not the MILF as an organization was giving aid to the extremist Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah.

MURAD: Bombing suspect

The complaint also named three Indonesian militants, as well as a Pakistani national, he said.

Aside from Dulmatin and Patek—already publicized names of Indonesian militants believed to be hiding in Sulu—two more foreign suspected terrorists were implicated by a surrendered rebel, who allegedly witnessed them planning the bombings, according to regional police Chief Supt. German Doria.

Terrorist united front?

The informant, Ambas Tukan, has alleged that his commander and other MILF rebels, an Indonesian bomb expert identified as Jabide Abdul, and a Pakistani, Usman al Majad, met early this month in a rebel camp in North Cotabato to plot the bombings.

The militants "planned and discussed to execute simultaneous bombings within central Mindanao upon orders from the MILF central command through chairman Ibrahim Murad," Tukan said in a sworn affidavit seen by The Associated Press.

Tukan claimed that days later, he overheard his commander discussing the planned bombings with a number of people, including Murad and Dulmatin.

Military Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said the attacks could be an attempt by the militants to divert the military's focus from a US-backed offensive against Abu Sayyaf rebels and Indonesian militants, including Dulmatin and Patek, on southern Jolo island. They also could be in retaliation for the recent capture of Dulmatin's wife in Jolo, he said. The United States, British and Australian embassies have warned their citizens to avoid Mindanao because of possible terrorist attacks.

Bajar

Ermita, interviewed by reporters at the Palace, confirmed that there was a "third one," among the Indonesian terrorists hiding in southern Philippines.

However, Ermita mentioned the third bomber and suspected JI member as being named "Bajar." His name came out during the interrogation of Dulmatin's wife, Ermita said. *Christine Avendaño, with AP report*

Bali bomber's wife ordered deported

THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION YESTERday ordered the deportation of the Indonesian wife of Bali bombing suspect and Jemaah Islamiya leader Dulmatin for illegally entering the country.

The BI Board of Commissioners issued yesterday the summary deportation order against Istiada Oemar Sovie, who was captured with her two children by troops in Patikul, Sulu, early this month.

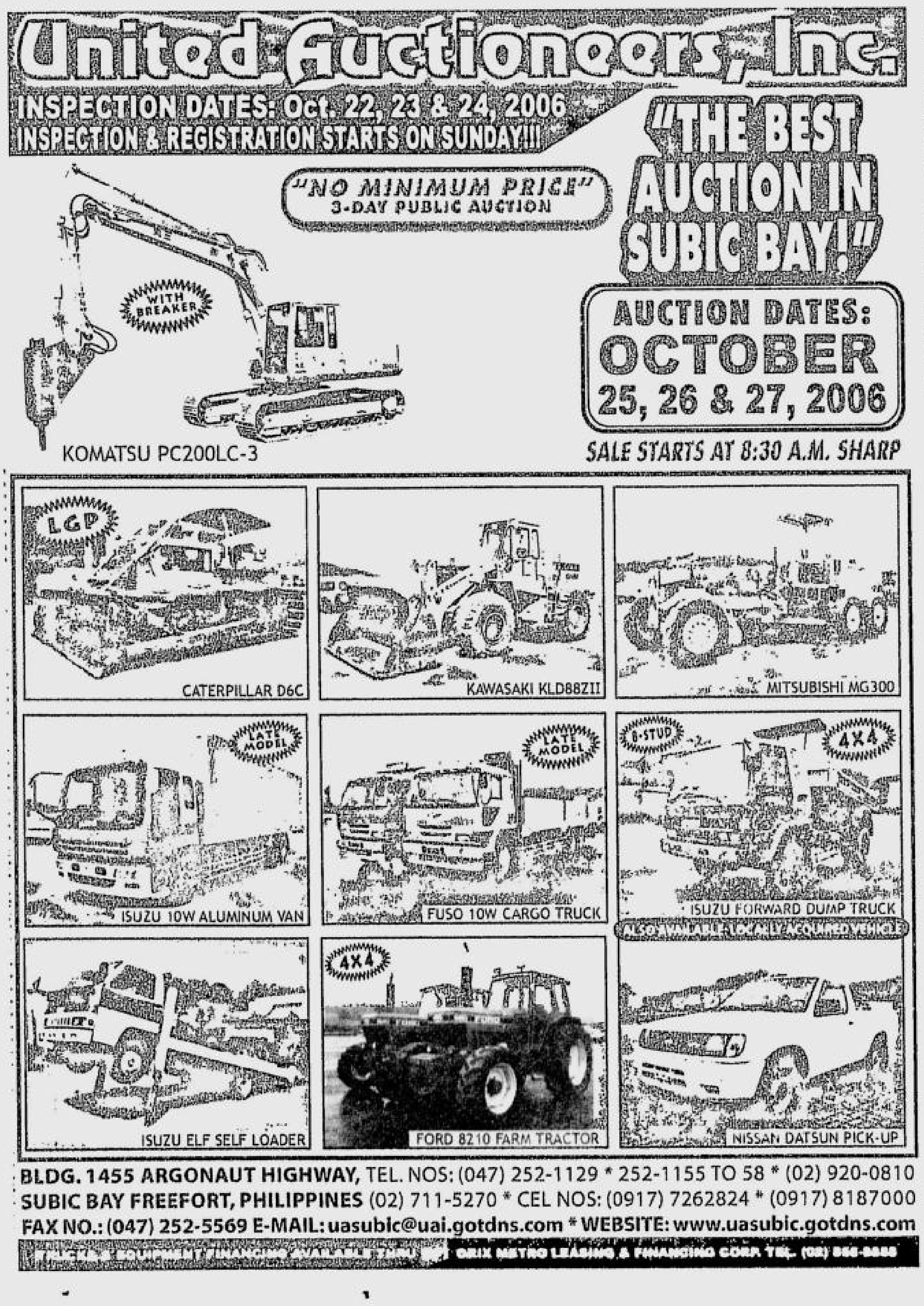
"She and her children will be deported as soon as we have secured the necessary clearances from the courts and the police," BI Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr., said in a statement.

She will also be banned from re-entering the country, Fernandez added.

Sovie reportedly told military officers that she preferred to be detained in Manila rather than be sent back to Indonesia. But BI intelligence chief Faizal Hussin said Sovie's admission that she also belonged to the terrorist JI was another ground for expulsion.

Sovie also reportedly told military interrogators that she was a JI courier and illegally entered the southern island of Jolo in August 2003, where her husband and another JI militant, Umar Patek, were hidding from an international manhunt.

She allegedly confirmed that the JI and the Filipino militant group Abu Sayyaf were jointly plotting to attack urban areas in the south as punishment for the Philippines' support for the US-led war on terrorism. *Leila B. Salaverria with reports from AFP*



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ROYAL BRUNEI

Another militant leader shot dead

LUCENA CITY—A MEMBER OF A militant organization of urban poor living by the railroad tracks in San Pablo City was shot dead by an unidentified gunman at about 7 a. m. yesterday.

Eduardo Millares, 50, was walking to work when he was shot in the head and other parts of the body, according to Doris Cuario, secretary general of Karapatan human rights group in Southern Tagalog. He died on the spot.

A companion, Victoriano Cariño, 42, survived the ambush, suffering a gunshot wound in the right leg.

The gunman, who was armed with a .45-caliber pistol, escaped aboard a tricycle whose driver also acted as a lookout during the shooting, Cuario said.

Cuario immediately placed the blame on the military which she said "has long been terrorizing the people along the railroad tracks with its unwelcome presence."

Millares was a member of the Samahan ng Magkakapitbahay sa Tabing Riles (SMTR)-Kadamay, an organization of squatter communities composed of several barangays by the city's railroad tracks.

'Cold-blooded murder'

Cuario said the SMTR was allied with Kadamay, another urban poor group which the military named last year as a communist front organization.

She said the killing may be linked to the SMTR's strong opposition to the demolition of hundreds of houses along the railroad tracks in San Pablo.

"We are certain that the military had a hand in this cold-blooded murder," she said.

Karapatan said the killers may have been members of the Army's 202nd Infantry Brigade based in San Pablo.

Brigade head Col. Jorge Segovia denied the accusation, calling the charges "rehashed propaganda of the Left against the military."

"From what we gathered, the victim was a police character," he said in a mobile phone interview.

Supt. Sonny Ricablanca, the San Pablo police chief, said Millares was arrested as a suspect in a robbery at the the Land Transportation Office sometime in June.

"But he managed to post bail," Ricablanca said.

He said Millares could have been killed because of an internal squabble among members of the robbery gang.

The Kadamay-Southern Tagalog condemned the killing of Millares and immediately pointed to Army soldiers as being responsible.

"This killing is part of the desperate attempt of the national government to push through with the South Rail modernization project which will displace thousands of families in Southern Tagalog," said Adel Tolentino, the group's chair.

He said the military had put up detachments in the four barangays—Sta. Ana, San Joaquin, Soledad and Wawa—to be affected by the demolition.

Virtual martial law

The presence of the soldiers has put the entire community along the railroads under martial law, he said.

"The soldiers already implemented curfew in the area last Aug. 13. Residents are not allowed to go out of their houses beyond 7 p.m.," he added.

He claimed members and leaders of the SMTR had been under surveillance.

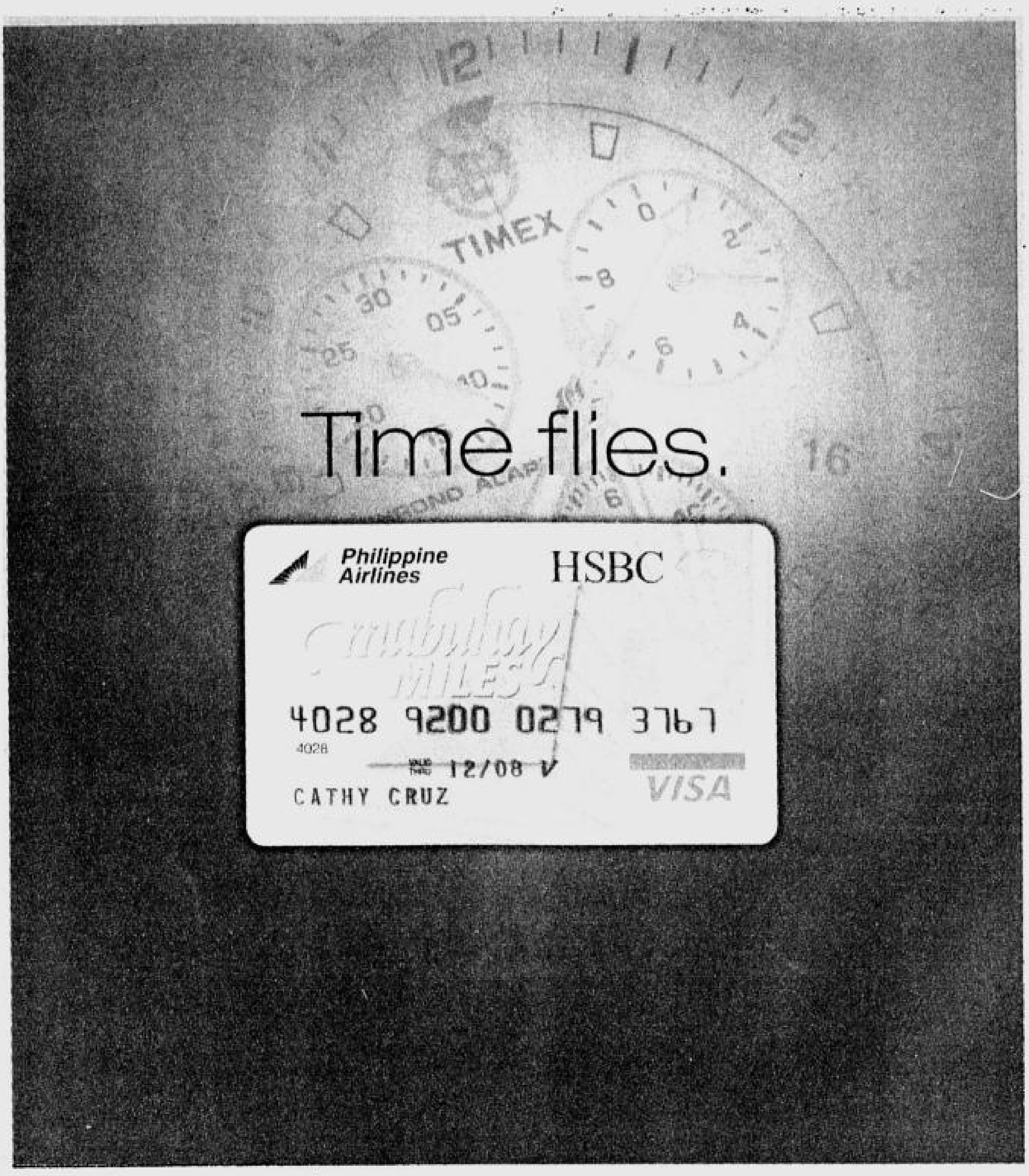
Tolentino said the Army even "stationed" several soldiers in the house of SMTR president Myrna Olarte to monitor her activities.

He noted that Millares' house was just in front of Olarte's.

"Olarte fears for her life. Sometimes she doesn't go home anymore because she's afraid of the military," he said.

SMTR and Kadamay had a dialogue with the city council a day before Millares was killed during which members of the 202nd were present and were seen taking pictures of the leaders and members of the two urban poor groups.

"We have been opposing the military's presence since last two months. Most of us are being harassed by the military. They have been closely monitoring our houses and we are really threatened," Olarte said. *Marlon Ramos, Niña Catherine Calleja and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*



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PAL cuts fuel fees by P100

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES announced yesterday it will reduce its fuel surcharge on domestic travel by P100 per round-trip flight effective Oct. 23, as the price of crude oil in the world market eases up.

PAL executive vice president Henry So Uy said the move is intended to pass on the benefit of lower fuel costs to the flying public.

"We are sharing with our passengers whatever benefits are due us in terms of fuel-cost savings. This is one way of giving back, however modest, to our loyal customers," he said.

Oil has shed more than a quarter of its value since peaking at $78.40 per barrel in mid-July as global inventories swell and supply concerns wane.

The price fell to $58.27 per barrel during Tuesday's trading in London.

PAL said that should the cost of fuel ease up further, it will adjust its fuel surcharge accordingly.

For flights between Manila and points in Luzon (Laoag, Legaspi and Naga), the surcharge drops from P800 to P700 per round trip flight

There's A Reason Why Lyn Is Looking Better These Days

While everyone seems to be jumping on the latest weight-loss method, TV host Lyn Ching Pascual steadily chooses to do otherwise. Fresh from her 3-week cruise with her hubby, Lyn animatedly talks about work, family life and her latest slimming discovery, Ultrashape!

Playing the part of a TV personality, wife and mother she shares, "My nearly 2-year old daughter is already a handful. Add to it the time I spend co-hosting my morning show and, of course, taking care of my husband. It can be quite exhausting! So I make sure that I also find time for myself. It helps freshen me up. When on vacation, I don't sweat the small stuff like dieting. Without a trace of guilt, I indulge in my food cravings. Imagine eating delicious food while enjoying great ambience. That felt great!

Lyn, as we know, went through almost all kinds of crash diets. "People have seen me spring back and forth to being fat and thin then fat again. It only made me looked haggard and weak. I realized, if you want to get the results too fast too soon, then for sure you will gain weight as fast as you lost it. Take liposuction for example."

"There's always a risk when you opt for an operation, and it's no different with liposuction. For me, liposuction is too painful for my body to endure. Other people may have a higher tolerance for pain and lipo may be okay for them. I respect that. It's their body and it's their decision, that's fine with me. Personally, I simply don't want to risk my life for vanity. As with anything, liposuction is no assurance that you'll be forever thin. That's why with regard to my weight-loss option, I've learned to take things one step at a time and I choose to do that with Marie France. It's just as effective, but Marie France's treatments are safer and risk-free."

"With Ultrashape around, everyone now gets a far better alternative to lipo and crash diets!"

Despite the schedules she juggles everyday, Lyn is confident that she can keep her figure in tip-top condition through her latest slimming discovery – Ultrashape! In her words, "Ultrashape is safe, easy and convenient! When it was introduced to me, I immediately said yes to it! I trust Marie France so much, I'm sure they won't recommend giving me a treatment that might cost me my health," Lyn says.

"Upon trying it firsthand, I was amazed! Ultrashape requires no injection, no pain, no sweat and no exercise! It's non-invasive, has no downtime and no harmful side effects! I was just lying there and comfortably reading magazines while I was having my session. The best thing was, I could feel my tummy become flatter a few weeks after! No doubt it's the perfect way to trim down stubborn fats!"

While she has nothing against people who opt for the fast and often drastic measures to lose weight, Lyn articulates, "Vanity is a part of who we are. It's a part of self-preservation. Looking good completes a certain part of you as a woman and as a person. It's just sad that some of us, myself included back then, would have to put our health at risk in exchange of having a better appearance. With Ultrashape around, everyone now gets a far better alternative to lipo and crash diets!"

Paying utmost importance to her role as a homemaker and career woman, Lyn lucidly states, "Looking your best while at the peak of health soon becomes your gift to yourself. Maybe to your kids even. You want them to be proud of you. As they grow, you want to run with them, and run after them should they become mischievous! When they're in school, you want them to shout 'that's my mommy! She's so beautiful!' When that happens, I can already hear myself say "Thank God for healthier options – Thank God for Marie France's Ultrashape!"

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Another militant leader shot dead

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Brigade head Col. Jorge Segovia denied the accusation, calling the charges "rehashed propaganda of the Left against the military."

"From what we gathered, the victim was a police character," he said in a mobile phone interview.

Supt. Sonny Ricablanca, the San Pablo police chief, said Millares was arrested as a suspect in a robbery at the the Land Transportation Office sometime in June.

"But he managed to post bail," Ricablanca said.

He said Millares could have been killed because of an internal squabble among members of the robbery gang.

The Kadamay-Southern Tagalog condemned the killing of Millares and immediately pointed to Army soldiers as being responsible.

"This killing is part of the desperate attempt of the national government to push through with the South Rail modernization project which will displace thousands of families in Southern Tagalog," said Adel Tolentino, the group's chair.

He said the military had put up detachments in the four barangays—Sta. Ana, San Joaquin, Soledad and Wawa—to be affected by the demolition.

Virtual martial law

The presence of the soldiers has put the entire community along the railroads under martial law, he said.

"The soldiers already implemented curfew in the area last Aug. 13. Residents are not allowed to go out of their houses beyond 7 p.m.," he added.

He claimed members and leaders of the SMTR had been under surveillance.

Tolentino said the Army even "stationed" several soldiers in the house of SMTR president Myrna Olarte to monitor her activities.

He noted that Millares' house was just in front of Olarte's.

"Olarte fears for her life. Sometimes she doesn't go home anymore because she's afraid of the military," he said.

SMTR and Kadamay had a dialogue with the city council a day before Millares was killed during which members of the 202nd were present and were seen taking pictures of the leaders and members of the two urban poor groups.

"We have been opposing the military's presence since last two months. Most of us are being harassed by the military. They have been closely monitoring our houses and we are really threatened," Olarte said. *Marlon Ramos, Niña Catherine Calleja and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

PAL cuts fuel fees by P100

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES announced yesterday it will reduce its fuel surcharge on domestic travel by P100 per round-trip flight effective Oct. 23, as the price of crude oil in the world market eases up.

PAL executive vice president Henry So Uy said the move is intended to pass on the benefit of lower fuel costs to the flying public.

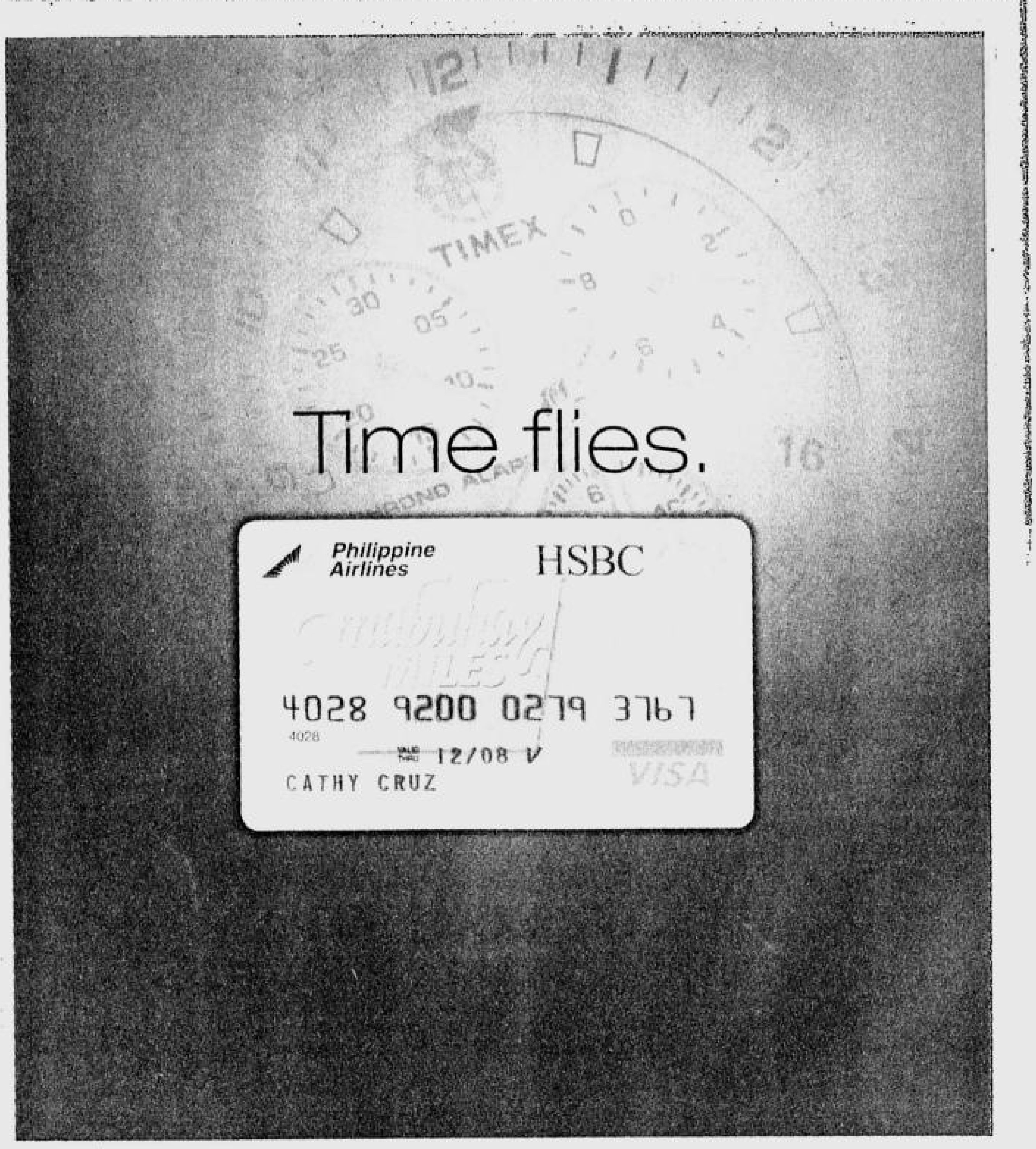
"We are sharing with our passengers whatever benefits are due us in terms of fuel-cost savings. This is one way of giving back, however modest, to our loyal customers," he said.

Oil has shed more than a quarter of its value since peaking at $78.40 per barrel in mid-July as global inventories swell and supply concerns wane.

The price fell to $58.27 per barrel during Tuesday's trading in London.

PAL said that should the cost of fuel ease up further, it will adjust its fuel surcharge accordingly.

For flights between Manila and points in Luzon (Laoag, Legaspi and Naga), the surcharge drops from P800 to P700 per round-trip flight



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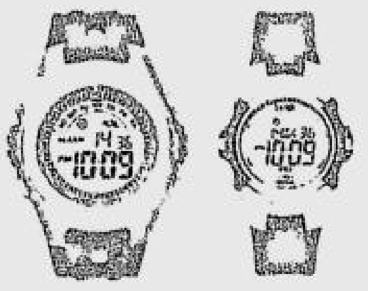

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There's A Reason Why Lyn Is Looking Better These Days

While everyone seems to be jumping on the latest weight-loss method, TV host Lyn Ching Pascual steadily chooses to do otherwise. Fresh from her 3-week cruise with her hubby, Lyn animatedly talks about work, family life and her latest slimming discovery, Ultrashape!

Playing the part of a TV personality, wife and mother she shares, "My nearly 2-year old daughter is already a handful. Add to it the time I spend co-hosting my morning show and, of course, taking care of my husband. It can be quite exhausting! So I make sure that I also find time for myself. It helps freshen me up. When on vacation, I don't sweat the small stuff like dieting. Without a trace of guilt, I indulge in my food cravings. Imagine eating delicious food while enjoying great ambience. That felt great!

Lyn, as we know, went through almost all kinds of crash diets. "People have seen me spring back and forth to being fat and thin then fat again. It only made me looked haggard and weak. I realized, if you want to get the results too fast too soon, then for sure you will gain weight as fast as you lost it, Take liposuction for example."

"There's always a risk when you opt for an operation, and it's no different with liposuction. For me, liposuction is too painful for my body to endure. Other people may have a higher tolerance for pain and lipo may be okay for them. I respect that. It's their body and it's their decision, that's fine with me. Personally, I simply don't want to risk my life for vanity. As with anything, liposuction is no assurance that you'll be forever thin. That's why with regard to my weight-loss option, I've learned to take things one step at a time and I choose to do that with Marie France. It's just as effective, but Marie France's treatments are safer and risk-free."

"With Ultrashape around, everyone now gets a far better alternative to lipo and crash diets!"

Despite the schedules she juggles everyday, Lyn is confident that she can keep her figure in tip-top condition through her latest slimming discovery – Ultrashape! In her words, "Ultrashape is safe, easy and convenient! When it was introduced to me, I immediately said yes to it! I trust Marie France so much, I'm sure they won't recommend giving me a treatment that might cost me my health," Lyn says.

"Upon trying it firsthand, I was amazed! Ultrashape requires no injection, no pain, no sweat and no exercise! It's non-invasive, has no downtime and no harmful side effects! I was just lying there and comfortably reading magazines while I was having my session. The best thing was, I could feel my tummy become flatter a few weeks after! No doubt it's the perfect way to trim down stubborn fats!"

While she has nothing against people who opt for the fast and often drastic measures to lose weight, Lyn articulates, "Vanity is a part of who we are. It's a part of self-preservation. Looking good completes a certain part of you as a woman and as a person. It's just sad that some of us, myself included back then, would have to put our health at risk in exchange of having a better appearance. With Ultrashape around, everyone now gets a far better alternative to lipo and crash diets!"

Paying utmost importance to her role as a homemaker and career woman, Lyn lucidly states, "Looking your best while at the peak of health soon becomes your gift to yourself. Maybe to your kids even. You want them to be proud of you. As they grow, you want to run with them, and run after them should they become mischievous! When they're in school, you want them to shout 'that's my mommy! She's so beautiful!' When that happens, I can already hear myself say "Thank God for healthier options – Thank God for Marie France's Ultrashape!"

Call 894-BODY (2639) for Ultrashape – LIPO without the suction.

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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Marcoses to face trial in P51-billion case

RICE ALLIANCE
Vice President Noli de Castro receives a plaque from Robert Hernandez, president of the Alyansa ng Industriyang Bigas (Anib) during its launching at the Club Filipino in San Juan. De Castro was the guest of honor at Tuesday's induction of Hernandez and other officers of the alliance. RYAN LIM

By Norman Bordadora

FORMER FIRST LADY IMELDA Marcos and her three children will face trial for a P51-billion ill-gotten wealth case originally filed against the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1987.

The Sandiganbayan 4th Division, in a resolution handed down on Oct. 9, junked two motions to dismiss filed by the Marcos heirs, questioning the validity of their substitution as defendants in Civil Case No. 0027 against the late dictator.

It took the anti-graft court all of 16 years to hand down the resolution as Imelda and her children—Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. and Irene Marcos-Araneta—had filed the motions to dismiss a year after their father's death in 1989.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government, the agency charged with recovering ill-gotten wealth from Marcos, his family and cronies, is seeking moral damages against the Marcos heirs in the amount of P50 billion, in addition to P1 billion in exemplary damages, unspecified actual and temperate damages, attorney's fees and litigation costs.

The case involves the $25-million loan that the Asian Reliability Corp. owned by businessman Vicente Chuidian, a Marcos crony, obtained from Credit Suisse First Boston and the Security Bank and Trust Co. The loan was guaranteed by the state-owned Philippine Export and Foreign Loan Guarantee Corp. (Philguarantee), since renamed the Trade and Investment Development Corp. (Tidcorp.).

The PCGG alleged that the Marcoses had a financial interest in ARCI, an electronics and semiconductor export firm, and that Imelda, who was then minister of human settlements and Interim Batasang Pambansa member, had "secured and heavily recommended" the approval of the loan guarantee by the then Central Bank governor Jaime Laya.

When ARCI defaulted on the loan, Philguarantee had to assume the obligation and later sued Chuidian and his companies for reimbursement. Chuidian was in the process of negotiating a settlement with the Marcos government when Marcos was ousted in 1986. The Aquino government froze the deal and the PCGG issued a sequestration order against ARCI.

In 1987, the PCGG filed a P51-billion suit with the Sandiganbayan against Chuidian, Marcos, Imelda and 20 others.

In their petition, Imelda and her children argued that the criminal and civil obligations of the late dictator may no longer be pursued as he had died on Sept. 28, 1989.

The court ruled otherwise, saying the government claim should proceed against Imelda and the children as Marcos' legal heirs.

"The claims of the plaintiff against defendant Ferdinand Marcos are not extinguished by his death," the Sandiganbayan said.

"Under the present Rules of Court, even actions for the recovery of money claims are no longer dismissed when the defendant dies before the entry of final judgment," it said.

Imelda also challenged the court's jurisdiction over her, saying she was acting under the authority of her husband in accordance with the 1973 Constitution which, she claimed, put her actions within the umbrella of executive immunity.

But the court said that executive immunity was "not in the nature of a sovereign passport for all subordinate officials and employees of the executive department," as Imelda was claiming.

"Her being the wife of the President, Governor of Metro Manila, Minister of Human Settlements and member of the Batasang Pambansa does not automatically include her within the scope of this provision," it said.

Erap wants to visit ma weekly

By Norman Bordadora

DETAINED PRESIDENT JOSEPH Estrada yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan to allow him to visit his ailing 102-year-old mother Mary Marcelo Ejercito on a weekly basis.

At the same time, Estrada's lawyers asked the court to give the former president and his son and co-accused Sen. Jose "Jinggoy" Estrada up to Oct. 27, 2006 to complete their formal offer of evidence in the plunder case.

The defense lawyers also filed their formal offer of evidence composed of 33 documents as part of Estrada's defense in the separate perjury case filed against him by the government.

Estrada, through lead counsel Rene Saguisag, is asking the court to grant him leave to be with his mother in North Greenhills in San Juan every Friday evening until Sunday afternoon.

He said the proposed schedule will be "subject to continuing review depending on whether her condition will improve or worsen."

Through a motion, Estrada told the anti-graft court special division hearing his case that his mother's health condition has deteriorated as evidenced by a medical certificate issued by her attending physician.

Dr. Lorenzo M. Hocson, director of the San Juan Medical Center, said Ejercito is already bedridden and has poor food intake.

Recurrent sickness

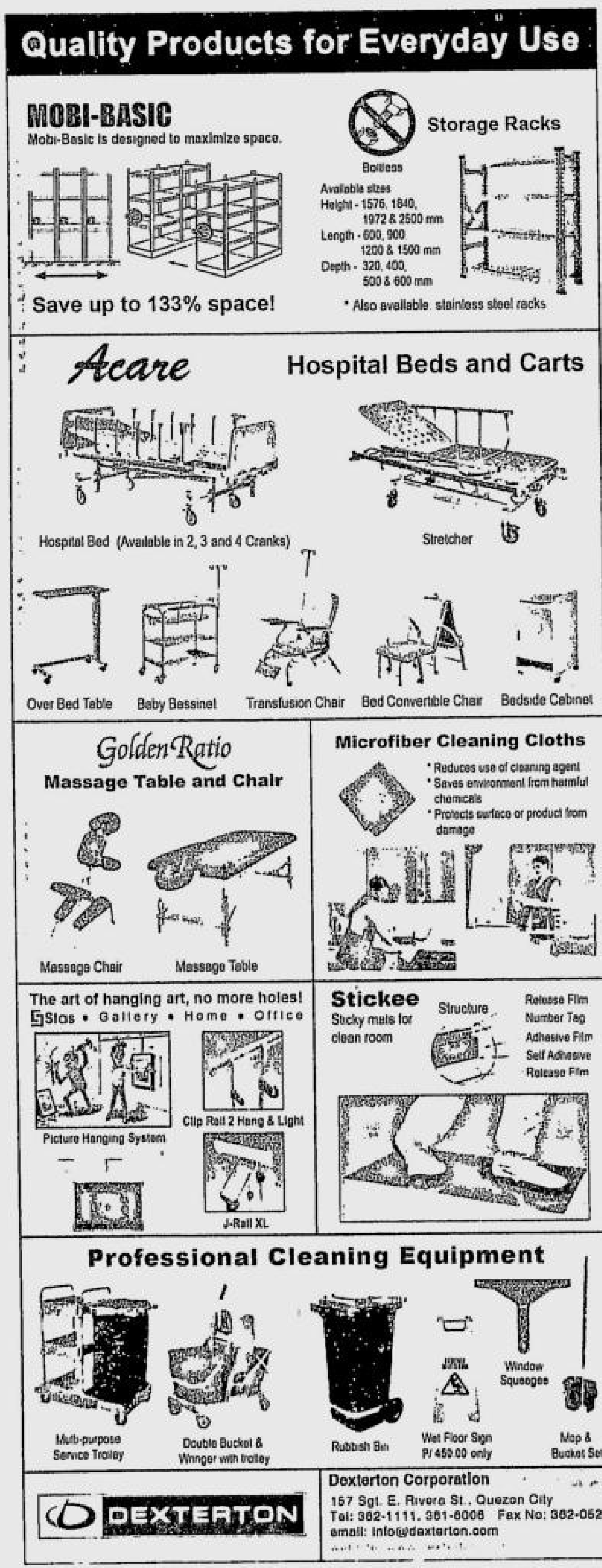
"Her mental status has progressively deteriorated. Lastly, there is always the imminent risk of rupture of the abdominal aneurysm which invariably would be fatal," Hocson said.

Ejercito has been in and out of the hospital because of recurrent sicknesses. She has suffered from urinary tract infection and has been diagnosed to have abdominal aortic aneurysm.

Estrada has been allowed several times in the past by the special division to visit her ailing mother. It is the only motion of the defense panel that government prosecutors do not oppose.

The last time Estrada saw his mother was when she celebrated her 102nd birth anniversary in May at the former president's residence on Polk Street, North Greenhills, San Juan. She lives at the nearby Kennedy Street.

In his formal offer in the perjury case, Estrada submitted evidence to prove that he was "denied due process and equal protection, subjected to selective prosecution and invidious discrimination with an evil eye and an unequal hand."



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Correction

IN THE OCT. 18 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Allah was on my side, says DILG official"—misstated the first name of the interior undersecretary. His name is Wencelito—not Wenceslao—Andanar.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, October 19, 2006
28th Week in Ordinary Time
Isaac Joques / John De Brebeuf and Companions / Paul of the Cross

1st Reading:	Eph 1:1-10
Gospel:	Luke 11:47-54

Jesus said to the Pharisees, "A curse is on you, for you build memorials to the prophets your ancestors killed. So you approve and agree with what your ancestors did. Is it not so? They got rid of the prophets, and now you can build!"

(The Wisdom of God also said,) "I will send prophets and apostles and this people will kill and persecute some of them. But the present generation will have to answer for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the foundation of the world, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was murdered between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, the people of this time will have to answer for them all.

A curse is on you, teachers of the Law, for you have taken the key of knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you prevented others from entering."

As Jesus left that place, the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees began to harass him, asking him endless questions, setting traps to catch him in something he might say.

Commentary

Always the blessing of the Father, Son and Spirit—the Trinity—upon all believers. We were chosen to dwell within our God and to be holy like Jesus, beloved sons and daughters of the Father. We are forgiven, graced and freed so that we might share in the plan of wisdom that brings everything together in Christ. What a calling we have been given!

Jesus is appalled at what some of the leaders of his own people do in the name of religion: the bad example, being stumbling blocks to those seeking God, and even slaughtering the prophets who speak the truth. And they in turn, attack Jesus, seeking a way to catch him in his own words. Do we remember who we are and what God asks of us, and how what we do affects others around us?

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P10M worth US-bound garments from China seized

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS HAS SEIZED P10 MILlion worth of garments from China that were bound for the United States but falsely labeled "Made in the Philippines," in violation of the custom and tariff code.

This is a modus operandi, participated in by unscrupulous traders from both China and the Philippines, that aims to skirt quota restrictions on China-made textile and garments, while taking advantage of the no quota privilege of apparel suppliers from the Philippines.

Spot checks of the apparel shipment from China, which arrived at the Port of Subic on Oct. 9 aboard the Fesco Trader, revealed men's shirts and other garments that were made to appear as products of the Philippines, the BOC said. The shipment was consigned to a certain Limech Garment Manufacturing Corp. and was reportedly intended for shipment to the United States.

The shipment examination was witnessed by representatives of the Department of Trade and Industry and the US Customs and Border Protection group.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales said the stepped-up vigilance against mislabeled Chinese garment shipments was in line with a recently signed memorandum of understanding between the Philippines and the United States which aims to curtail the use of Philippine ports as a transshipment point for China-made garments.

Deputy Commissioner Reynaldo Nicolas, who heads the bureau's Assessment and Operations Coordination Group, issued an alert order against the shipment for violating the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines. He said the bureau's legal office would conduct further investigations on the shipment in preparation for the filing of smuggling charges against those responsible for it.

Batangas port reports record Customs take

WHILE THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS fell short of its collection target for the month of September, the district port of Batangas recently reported an unprecedented increase in revenue collection compared to the same period last year.

The Port of Batangas together with its sub-ports of Sain, Quezon and Puerto Princesa, Palawan collected a cumulative actual cash collection of P30.227 billion from January to September this year, exceeding its target of P22.5 billion by P7.6 billion.

For September 2006 alone, the actual cash collection reached P3.3 billion, a 17.8 percent increase over the month's target of P2.8 billion, representing P504 million additional revenue for the government. The Port of Batangas has consistently overshot its monthly assigned target by at least 12 percent on the average, District Collector Gracia Caringal said in a press statement.

Caringal attributed the increase in revenue collection to non-traditional sources of revenue such as motor vehicle importation, aside from the regular oil imports that go through the Port of Batangas and a more efficient payment system for importers and brokers.

Transport groups back insurance scheme

THE COUNTRY'S MAJOR TRANSPORT groups have thrown their support behind the expanded Two-Group insurance system for public utility vehicles to weed out fake insurance policies that have been victimizing them in the past.

The transport groups Fejodap, Piston, Altodap, MJODA, PCDO-Acto, Pasang Masda and NTU said the current expanded Two-Group insurance system established for the purchase of compulsory third party liabilities (CTPL) by public utility vehicles adequately addresses issues concerning third-patry insurance coverage.

The Two-Group System, established by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) in 2001, calls for all licensed insurance companies who wish to participate in the Passenger Accident Insurance Program (PAIP) to join any of the two groups accredited by the LTFRB.

The system was created after transport groups complained to the LTFRB about the proliferation of fake insurance policies and the resulting non-payment of claims.

The transport groups voiced support for the two-group system amid moves by the Insurance Commission to allow another insurance company, Alpha Insurance and Surety Co., to issue the "enhanced" compulsory third party liability coverage for PUVs.

The groups claimed Alpha had not complied with the benefits and services required by the LTFRB when it approved the enhancement and consolidation of benefits under the CTPL.

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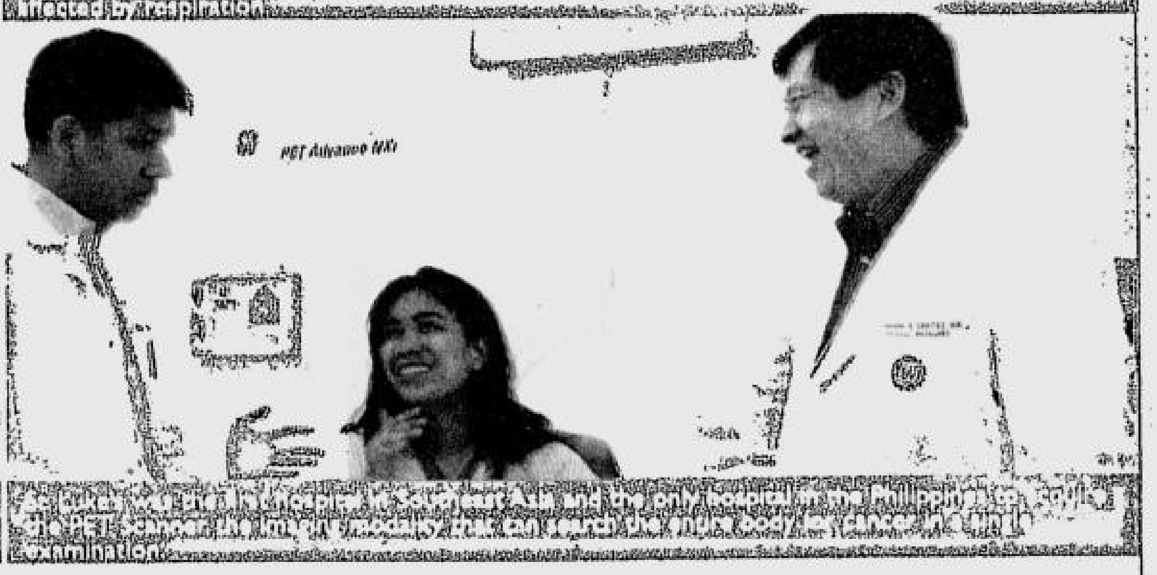

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24 years for Pinoy who killed sis-in-law, nephew in UK

By Nikko Dizon

A FILIPINO NATIONAL was sentenced to 24 years imprisonment in the United Kingdom after a jury found him guilty of stabbing to death his sister-in-law and nephew, the Philippine Embassy in London said yesterday.

An 11-person jury at Chester Crown Court found Orlando Santos guilty on two counts of murder, with a 12-year sentence for each count.

The verdict was handed down on Monday, the embassy added.

Santos will have to serve his sentence before he can apply for parole, the embassy said.

Santos had admitted to stabbing Claire Umali, 39, and her son, Kim, 13, with a kitchen knife but claimed he did not remember details of the crime, according to the Daily Post, a British paper.

Another paper, the Chester Standard, reported that Santos' wife, Neilla, was "torn between her husband and her family."

Wife testifies

It reported that on the witness stand, Neilla had said that her husband was "not in his right mind that day."

The killings took place on Dec. 3, 2005 inside the home that Santos and his wife shared with Umali and her family on Dorset Road, Upton.

According to the newspaper reports, Santos had difficulty adjusting to life in the UK and had wanted to return to the Philippines.

On the day of the killings, the Santos couple had an argument about going back to the Philippines.

Neilla, who was employed at a nursing home, had already left for work when her husband attacked her sister and nephew who had tried to defend his mother.

Umali was stabbed four times, and the boy, six times.

Extended family

Umali and her family had been living in Upton since 2000. They were joined by the Santoses four years later.

Ed Malaya, acting Foreign Affairs spokesperson, said that "by most likelihood, they (families) have regular residence papers."

"The embassy extended assistance to (the) victims' families and the accused. An assistance to national officer attended the trials and ensured that he (Santos) had legal counsel and that a Filipino interpreter was at the trial," Malaya added.

The embassy said that while the trial was extensively covered by the local UK media, "it is noteworthy that there was no outpouring of support from the Filipino community in Chester, either for the victims' or the assailant's families."

The embassy took note that there were no other Filipinos present during the trial.

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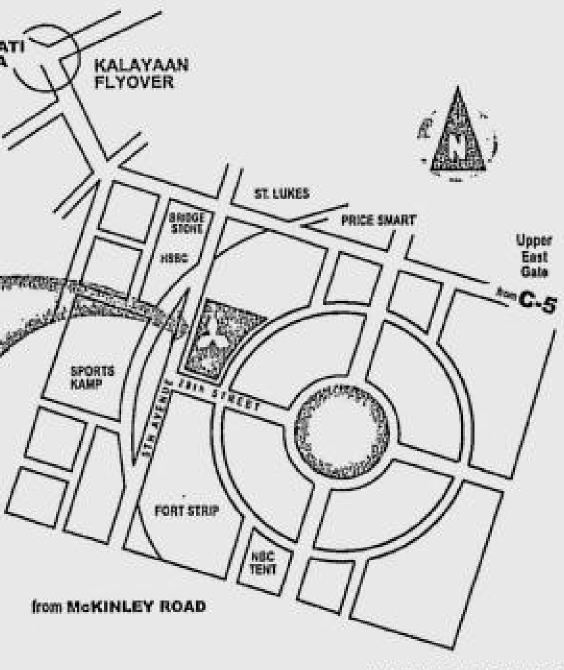

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Two bishops warn of stronger popular dissent

By Christian V. Esguerra
in Manila
and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

TWO ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHops yesterday expressed concern at the plight of suspended Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay.

Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez was among a group of religious leaders who joined a gathering at the St. Peter's Parish on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City to tackle the predicament of the leader of the United Opposition.

Suspicious timing

Iñiguez warned that the perceived pressure being exerted by Malacañang on Binay would further infuriate the public.

"If it's a real political vendetta then it's the worst kind," he told reporters. "I think it will arouse further the ire of the Filipino people."

Iñiguez said the timing of the suspension order against Binay was "suspicious" as it came on the heels of a similar suspension order against Pasay Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad, another vocal critic of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"If you look at it, the one who planned everything was really intelligent," the bishop said.

But Iñiguez cautioned against rash judgments, saying people should also look into the veracity of allegations being leveled against the Makati mayor.

"We have to look at other developments to see what really is the truth," he said.

In Dagupan City, Archbishop Oscar Cruz warned the government of a louder and stronger popular dissent because of Malacañang's "obvious bias against opposition officials."

"The demolition job on the opposition is no longer an imagination because President Macapagal-Arroyo has long been demonstrating her odious partiality to her political allies," Cruz said in an interview.

Absence of justice

He cited as an example the suspension of Binay while a pro-administration mayor in Metro Manila who, he said, had been accused of at least 16 administrative and criminal offenses, was still "happily sitting in his office."

Cruz did not identify the mayor.

"All these eventually mean the absence of social justice in the country precisely because the administration and its allies consider themselves, and act accordingly, as above the law," Cruz said.

"One thing is certain—the moment the legal system in the country no longer works, that is a guarantee of a continuously louder and stronger popular dissent that will definitely lead to anything but a united people and progressive country," he added.

Palace holds off use of force in Makati

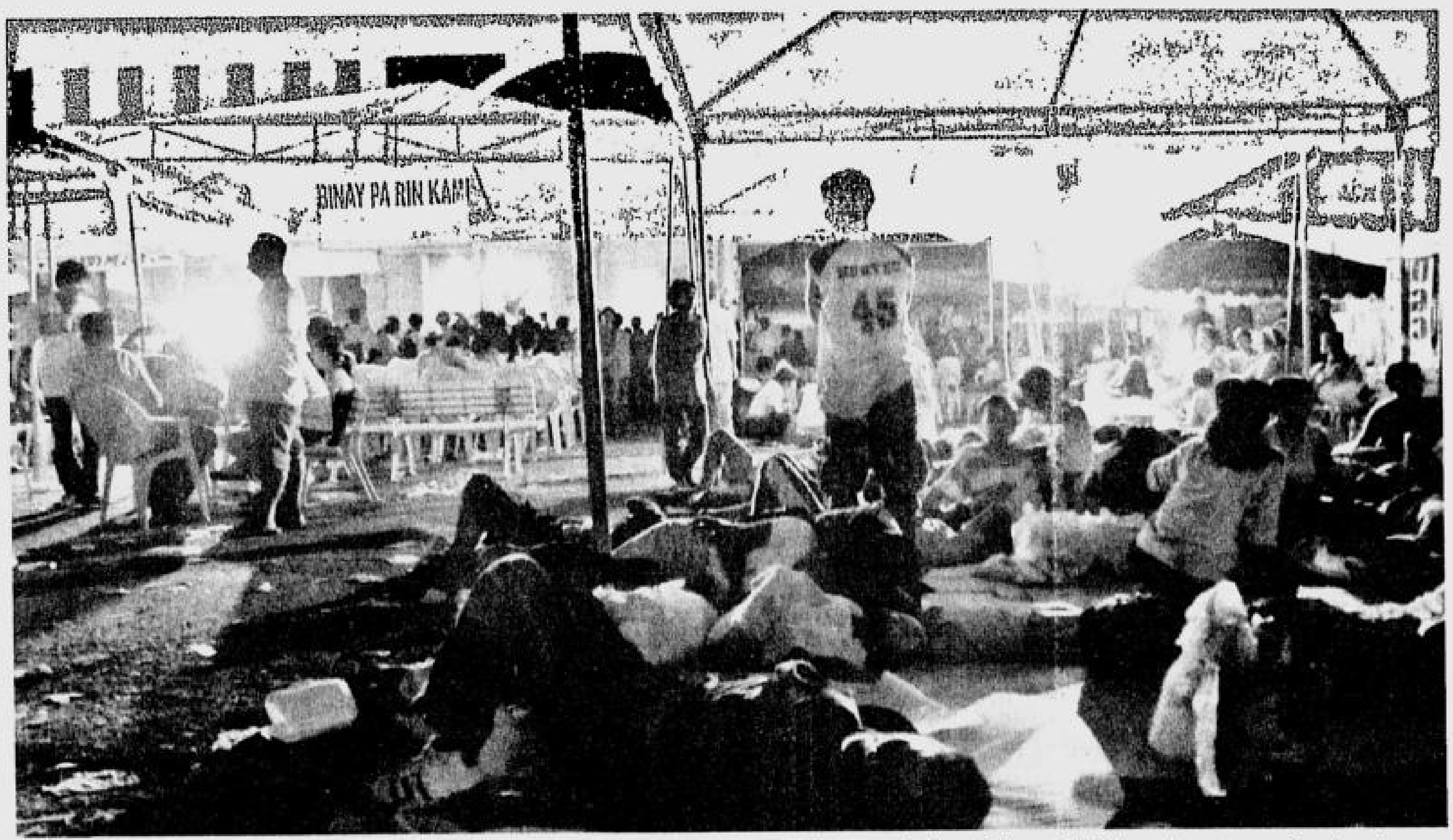
From page A1

But Ermita stressed that the Palace still believed that Binay was "a very responsible citizen, political leader and mayor of the premiere city" and that whatever decision he made would not lead to chaos in the running of the country's financial capital and home to many foreign embassies and multinational firms.

Interior Undersecretary Wencelito Andanar said Binay would have to vacate City Hall if the Court of Appeals decided against issuing a temporary restraining order by Friday.

"If there's a trespasser in your house, what do you do? You call the police to bring him out," Andanar told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Andanar, however, said that his former party mate in the Partido ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Lakas ng Bansa or PDP-Laban was a reasonable man and he expected him to leave City Hall soon.



SECOND DAY: Overnight, a mini tent city sprouts in front of the Makati City Hall, its population of about 2,000 in various stages of rest and recreation, but each and every one fiercely supportive of Binay. The mayor himself has called on his friends to join him in protesting his suspension calling it a form of harassment by the Arroyo administration against the United Opposition of which he is president. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Hon. JEJOMAR C. BINAY

CAN'T MISS IT: Aside from the fluorescent light above it, Binay's picture is bigger than life and hangs smack center on the 22-story building of the Makati City Hall on the second day of his defiant stand against the suspension order issued by the DILG. REM ZAMORA

THE OTHER MAYOR: Rodolfo Feraren, DILG director for Metro Manila and Makati City OIC, makes do with holding office from the old City Hall as the suspended mayor refuses to leave his office. REM ZAMORA

No order to use force

"I don't think it will come to that," Andanar said, referring to the question of bringing in a police force to take on Binay and his supporters.

Assistant Secretary Brian Yamsuan, DILG spokesperson, said there was no particular order from Malacañang to bodily carry Binay out of City Hall by weekend.

Yamsuan, however, said that the suspension order clearly stated that the 18 suspended officials should desist from executing their official tasks.

"This includes having to leave the premises," he said.

Yamsuan said the DILG had allowed Binay to stay for a few days in his office to give him time to leave peacefully.

Binay softening?

"If the Court of Appeals doesn't come out with a TRO on Friday, he has to leave. Surely, he can't stay there during his 60-day suspension. That's a long time," Andanar said.

He believed that Binay had already started to realize the need to let legal processes roll when he allowed business transactions and public services to resume at City Hall.

"It's not just a softening of his stand. I think he is realizing that it is illegal to stay on," Andanar claimed.

If Makati caretaker and Interior Regional Director Rodolfo Feraren found it would be unnecessary to take over Binay's office itself so the city could be run smoothly, Andanar said the DILG would have to send Binay a bill.

"We'll send him a bill for the rental of his office (which) he's not supposed to occupy," Andanar said.

Who gives the orders

Asked if there would be negotiations if Binay decided to stay on despite the absence of a TRO, Andanar said: "There's nothing to negotiate. He has been suspended and the order has been served."

As the political standoff dragged on, Binay and Feraren, the designated caretaker, each made his claim to having been responsible for reopening City Hall.

"It was upon my order. Isn't it that in instances like these, the criticism is that services are affected? So why should we allow that?" said Binay as he made the rounds of City Hall's transaction counters.

The shutters at the main entrance of the new 22-story City Hall rolled up at 8:30 a.m. yesterday, more than 24 hours after Binay's supporters rolled them down to restrict entry to the building Binay had turned into his stronghold.

"Everything is back to normal here and City Hall is again open. I will continue to sign [papers if needed] … they can go prepare another case against me. There is a consensus among department heads that they fully support me," Binay told reporters.

OIC asserts himself

While Binay was holding a press conference in his office, Feraren was trying to run things his way as caretaker.

Feraren met roughly 30 department heads and officers and also made the rounds of the main building to check whether business operations had returned to normal.

"We had a happy and courteous meeting. It seems that I have their support. I also told them that I am apolitical. I am here to help them, so that (there will be no) vacuum and that services will be continuous," Feraren told reporters.

In a memorandum circulated to all department heads and barangay officials on Tuesday, Feraren made it clear he was the city caretaker.

He said in the memo that he would remain caretaker until Ms Arroyo had designated a new set of officials.

Who's in charge here?

It was not clear whether City Hall employees and officials had returned to work on the orders of Feraren or Binay, but offices providing basic services were open.

Residents were allowed to come inside the main building to pay their taxes, redeem driver's licenses, process birth certificates and building permits.

Electricity in some offices was also restored.

Nelia Barlis, head of the city treasury, said that despite the growing crowd that continued to show up to support Binay, business was running smoothly.

Feraren said that if Binay refused to vacate his office by Friday, he would have to meet with him.

"I will not use force to remove him from his office. It will only disrupt the operations of the City Hall," he said.

With no sign in sight to the standoff, Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado said he would give up his post if there was no TRO before Friday.

But he said this did not mean he had stopped supporting Binay, who was suspended along with Mercado and 16 city councilors for two months for allegedly keeping 1,000 "ghost employees" in the city payroll.

Mercado has rarely shown up in the press conferences Binay has been giving, together with the 16 councilors, in his office. Mercado said he was just avoiding the media frenzy.

"There is no falling out. Let us not give color to this. Mayor Binay and I are more than brothers. No political issue could destroy [our friendship]," Mercado told reporters.

Binay supporters

More tents holding Binay supporters sprouted yesterday. Police pegged the crowd at 1,500 but according to INQUIRER estimates, the number ranged from 2,500 to 3,500.

Supporters took turns making speeches and disco songs were played in between. A marching band also entertained the crowd.

Poe's widow supports Mayor Binay

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THERE WERE NO FIGHTING words from actress Susan Roces this time, only a calming presence.

The wife of the late actor Fernando Poe Jr. yesterday visited embattled Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay in his Makati City Hall office and offered him words of endearment and support.

"I'm here in support of my friend Mayor Binay, friend of the poor people. He championed the aspirations of Mr. Poe," Roces told reporters as she was leaving Binay's office.

"I think it's very unfair, the charges against him. On the other hand, I pray that it will be over soon. Many are aware that he is an able mayor and his dedication to his job, especially for the poor."

Binay supported Poe in the 2004 presidential election that has remained clouded to this day by charges that Ms Arroyo won by cheating. Ms Arroyo says she won cleanly.

"For me, as a friend, it hurts, what is happening, I hope this ends so he could continue his service for Makati," Roces said of Binay. "I am not a lawyer nor have I served in government. But as an ordinary citizen, I am wondering what this is, where is this going. But hopefully everything would be in order so he could continue serving."

Asked if she would go back to the streets and march for a friend, Roces said: "*Hindi naman po siguro, maayos naman dito* (Probably not, things are orderly here)."

Transport strikes

Binay's other supporters, however, had their sights beyond City Hall.

Black and White Movement's Vicente Romano said groups backing Binay, including civil society, militants and supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada, would meet to plan rallies in support of Binay.

Also yesterday, tricycle and jeepney drivers launched strikes and paralyzed commuter services around Makati in support of Binay.

Robert Galisim, president of the Makati Tricycle Federation, told the INQUIRER that some 3,000 tricycle drivers stopped plying their routes.

'Until suspension is over'

"This is our way of supporting the mayor," Galisim said. "We will keep on doing this to show our support for the mayor because he helped us a lot in our livelihood. Until this (suspension) is over, we will keep on holding strikes."

Besides, Galisim said, drivers could return to the streets in the evening and still earn some money for their families.

Orlando Marquez, president of the Makati Jeepney Operators and Drivers Alliance Inc., said 3,000 jeepneys stayed off their routes to condemn Binay's suspension.

AFP, DILG hit Binay's 'illegal' fashion sense

From page A1

Col. Bartolome Bacarro.

"He's subject to military law. Anybody who violates the Uniform Code can be court-martialed," Bacarro said. "He's on inactive status as a reservist. All the more he should not be wearing the uniform," he added.

Interior Undersecretary Wencelito Andanar ridiculed Binay's sartorial taste as an "irresponsible show of braggadocio" and "a sloppy display of arrogance."

It was Andanar who carried to the Makati City Hall the order suspending Binay and 17 other officials for two months while investigation is going on into charges that they kept "ghost employees" on their rosters.

What's he up to?

"What's he trying to prove? That he's a Marine colonel and he has followers among the Marine rebels?" Andanar told the INQUIRER.

"Is he trying to say that there will be a coup if he is taken out of City Hall?"

Andanar and Binay are both graduates of the National Defense College. Andanar is a reservist colonel in the Air Force.

The Armed Forces Uniform Code states that retired and reserve officers on inactive status, [illegible] Binay, may wear the military uniform only during military gatherings, as military instructors in an educational institution, or when visiting a military camp or post to participate in military drills or exercises.

8 years imprisonment

Bacarro said Binay could also be charged with violation of the Revised Penal Code on illegal use of uniforms and insignia, and Republic Act No. 493, which prohibits the use of military grades except for purely military purposes.

Under the penal code, the offenses carry a combined maximum penalty of eight years.

"These are just possible charges. We're not saying we'll file charges," Bacarro stressed.

Binay's fashion sense appeared to be farthest from the thoughts of Deputy Minority Leader Roilo Golez, who said that the Makati mayor could even become a presidential timber.

Golez said that Binay, the president of the United Opposition, could become the rallying point of the fractured political opposition if the Arroyo administration forced him out of office.

Natural groundswell

"If the unjust treatment of Mayor Binay continues, Binay might become the rallying point of the opposition and its candidate in (2010)," Golez said.

"Why not Binay for president? He has the abilities of a leader. He's smart, has mass appeal, and guts," he said.

"Many times in the history of mankind, it is that one rare defining moment that catapults a person to the highest post," Golez said.

"I'm not saying that he will run or is running for president. What I'm saying is that the circumstance might create a natural groundswell."

Days of uncertainty

Golez pointed out that the late President Ramon Magsaysay was "catapulted from obscurity" during the Huk rebellion in the 1950s while the 1986 People Power Revolt also catapulted both Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos to the presidency.

More opposition leaders rallied behind Binay as administration lawmakers backed Malacañang's suspension order.

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran said: "Malacañang no longer cares whom it attacks. Desperation is pushing Malacañang to pull out all stops in protecting itself, to the extent that it will manufacture charges against its critics."

Rep. Imee Marcos said Binay's 60-day suspension "is equivalent to 60 days of instability."

Representatives Edwin Uy (Lakas) and Douglas Cagas (NPC) said Binay's preventive suspension was only meant to give way to a fair investigation of the case against him. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

'Banker to the poor' is 3rd RM awardee to win Nobel

THE RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARD Foundation lauded the selection of Muhammad Yunus, a Magsaysay laureate, as this year's Nobel Peace Prize awardee. Yunus and the Grameen Bank which he heads were cited by the Nobel Committee "for their efforts to create economic and social development from below."

He is the third Magsaysay awardee to be given the Peace Prize. Mother Teresa (International Understanding, 1962) received her Nobel Prize in 1979, and the 14th Dalai Lama (Community Leadership, 1959) received the Nobel Prize in 1989.

Yunus received his Magsaysay award, often referred to as Asia's Nobel, 22 years ago, in 1984, in the Community Leadership category for "enabling the neediest rural men and women to make themselves productive with sound group-managed credit," through his seminal establishment of the Grameen Bank.

MUHAMMAD YUNUS

MOTHER TERESA

DALAI LAMA

In a press statement, the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, which administers Asia's premiere prize, said Yunus and Grameen Bank have clearly moved from strength to strength.

"It is truly inspiring to see that their good work has continued and grown over the years, and has now gained further recognition in the international community."

The Ramon Magsaysay Award was established in 1957 inspired by the leadership example of the late Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay, who was widely admired in his country and throughout the world. The Rockefeller Brothers Fund gave an endowment for the creation of the Award, with the agreement and cooperation of the Philippine government.

GIs do good, but not to ease Subic rape furor

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMpanga—Outreach projects by American Marines and sailors who arrived at Subic aboard the USS Essex, the same warship that carried the four servicemen charged with raping a Filipina almost a year ago, were not meant to placate the furor over that alleged incident.

"These are programmed activities that we do not only in the Philippines but also in other countries where we hold training. We want to foster good community relations," United States Marine Capt. Burrell Parmer, public affairs officer for the Talon Vision and Amphibious Landing Exercises, said in a phone interview.

On Wednesday, those on the USS Essex distributed school supplies, sports equipment and sewing machines at the Gordon Heights Elementary School 2 in Olongapo City. The troops will also help repaint some school buildings.

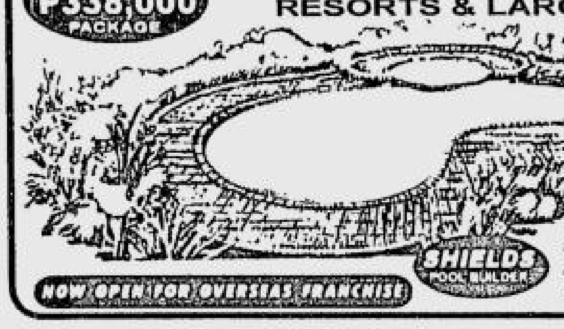
The city is outside the Subic Bay Freeport, where the supposed rape happened on Nov. 1, 2005 at the end of the Talon Vision exercise last year.

"Nicole," the 23-year-old complainant, alleged that Lance Corporal Daniel Smith raped her inside a moving van while Staff Sgt. Chad Brian Carpentier, Lance Corporals Dominic Duplantis and Keith Silkwood cheered Smith on.

Smith claimed Nicole consented to have sex with him.

A Makati City judge is set to decide on the case on Nov. 27. It was the first rape case filed against US troops participating in exercises held under the Visiting Forces Agreement.

Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon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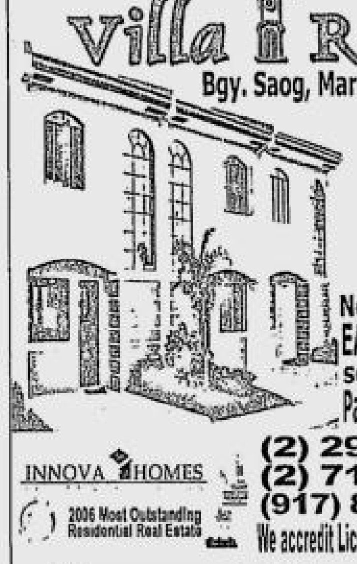
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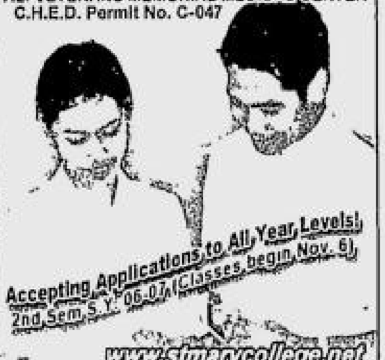
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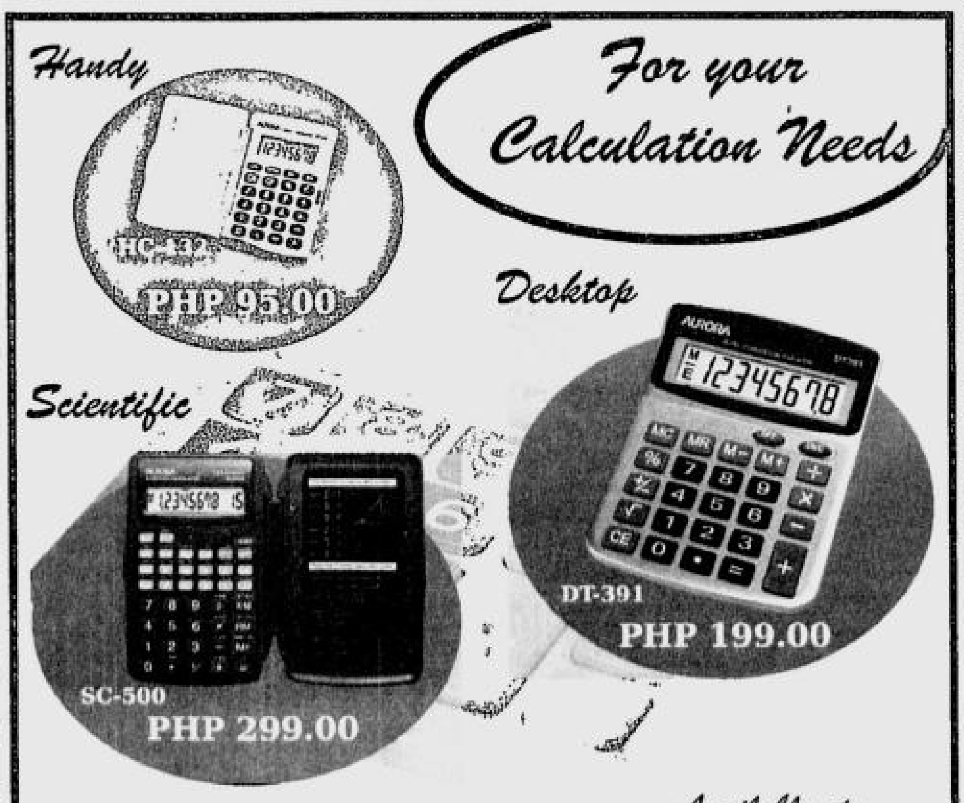
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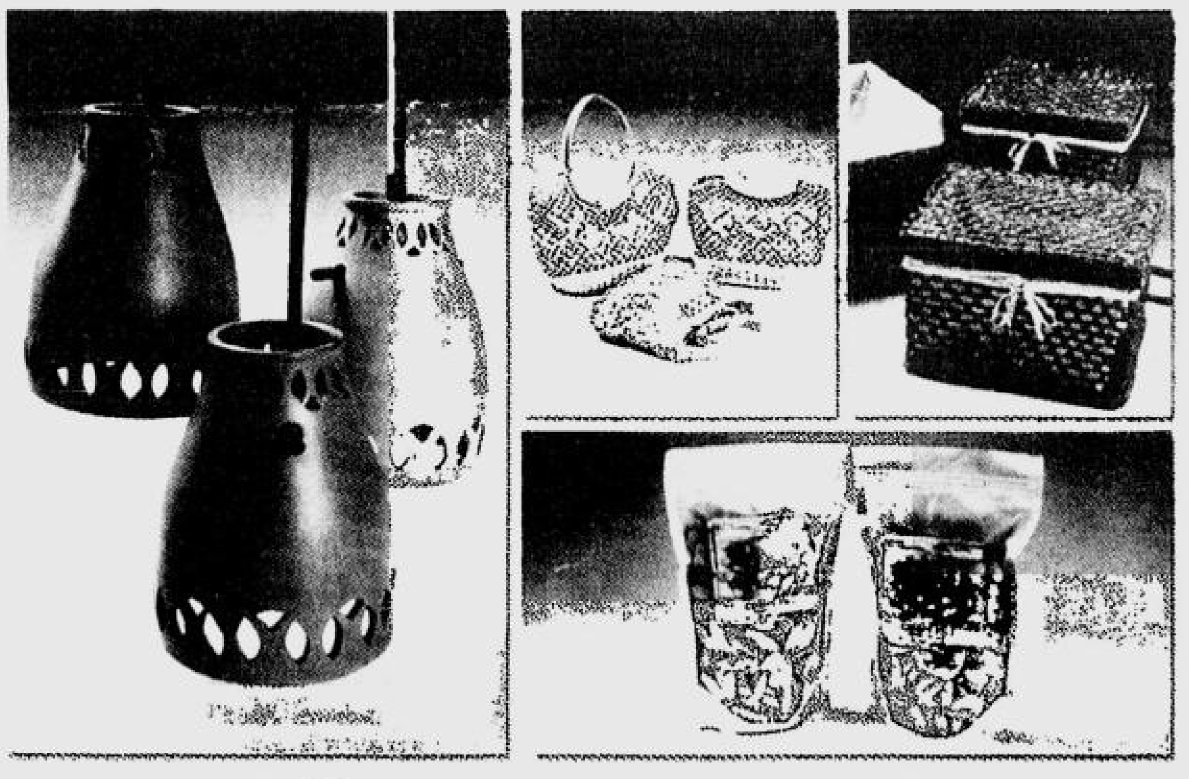
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Shun Aswang Festival, Capiz folk told

From page A1

all parishes.

In Philippine folklore, the *aswang* is a witch or viscera sucker.

Organizers said the festival would help dispel the negative perception about Capiz as a place where the *aswang* are found.

In a pastoral letter read in all churches here during Masses on Sunday, Msgr. Vicente Hilata asked religious communities, youth groups, liturgical ministries and seminarians to organize prayer vigils in churches and chapels during the two-day festival.

Hilata said there was no need for the festival.

Hilata, the vicar general of the Archdiocese of Capiz, also called on Catholics who could not attend the prayer vigils in churches to organize similar activities in their barangay chapels.

"We do believe in the power of prayer. And through prayer, we express once again our strong opposition to the Aswang Festival in a peaceful but sincere manner for transformation of hearts," he said.

Attitude problem

He pointed out that the province had produced luminaries in different fields. "They were hardworking Capiceños who carved names for themselves and made Capiz proud of her sons and daughters," he said.

Hilata expressed dismay over the attitude of "some Capiceños" who "deny their province of origin and birth because of a negative perception boosted by a festival."

While some members of the political community in Capiz uphold the rights of the festival organizers, Hilata said officials should also respect the rights of other Capiceños who oppose the festival.

The Catholic Church had also opposed the holding of the festival last year.

On Oct. 16, 2005, Capiz Archbishop Onesimo Gordoncillo issued a second pastoral letter expressing strong opposition to the holding of the event. The Catholic Church also held a caravan as a form of protest.

Cheryl Ann Lastimoso of the Dugo Capiznon Inc. (DCI), organizer of the festival, said that instead of fanning the fire, her group would focus on the event's objectives—promoting tourism and helping eradicate the unfair stereotyping of Capiceños.

"We only wish people would look beyond the fanfare and biases to see the sincerity of our intentions. The DCI has decided to focus all energies on the preparation of the activities as there will be very important persons and foreign guests attending the festival," Lastimoso said.

UN honors 10 RP towns, cities

From page A1

- Develop global partnerships for development.

These goals could be done and the experiences of Maitum and the other awardees are concrete proof, citation committee cochair Luz Rodriguez said.

"We are saying that the goals are doable, that local governments, no matter how poor, can achieve these goals with good leadership," Rodriguez said.

In the elite group along with Maitum are the province of Bulacan, Capoocan in Leyte, Concepcion in Iloilo, Malalag in Davao del Sur, Science City of Muñoz in Nueva Ecija, Naga City in Camarines Sur, the province of Oriental Negros, Zamboanga City and Pasay City.

"We are focusing on taking care of our children because they are our future. We want to develop them," Maitum Mayor George Yabes told the Inquirer during the awarding ceremony in Marikina City on Monday night.

With their program, which was launched in 2001, children in Maitum are taken care of the moment they are conceived, Yabes said.

The remote barangays in the town used to be passive witnesses to mothers dying during pregnancy or after giving birth. Most of the areas are in the mountains and access to the hospital is difficult.

Things have started to change.

Yabes said road networks were not only being improved, but maternal health care was also being brought right at the doorsteps of mothers and pregnant women.

The real heroes

Maitum has seven midwives, each looking after a few barangays. They have a list of pregnant women and mothers to take care of, whom they would visit regularly.

They are the real heroes.

Yabes said the midwives would have to walk or get on a carabao just to reach remote areas.

Thanks to community participation, which also took the form of voluntary contributions, the local government also managed to build health and nutrition posts to guide parents in taking care of their children, a primary school and day care centers for two barangays, teachers of which also get their salaries from the donations.

Maitum also has a Local Council for the Protection of Children, part of a Municipal Development Plan for Children (2002-25) which also includes an annual investment plan for children, a local code for children, and a monitoring system to ensure that children's rights are upheld.

In the special citation program, Maitum reported that the rate of malnutrition dropped from 27 percent in 2000 to 13 percent in 2005. It also recorded a 22-percent decrease in maternal deaths and a 69-percent decline in the number of children dying before reaching 5 years old.

Previous Gawad awardees

Rodriguez said Maitum and the nine other awardees were chosen from previous winners of the Gawad Galing Pook.

From the list of past winners, the selection committee, composed of officials from the United Nations and Gawad Galing Pook, chose 20 local governments which had been striving to comply with the eight millennium development goals.

From the 20 short-listed local governments, the selection committee finally chose the 10 winners which would serve as "examples to other local government units," Rodriguez said.

The small town of Capoocan in Leyte, for instance, was recognized for its "gender approach to poverty alleviation."

The 16-percent reduction in the number of people living in extreme poverty in Capoocan has been remarkable, but what makes the achievement different, if not special, is that it was accomplished with the help of strong women's organizations.

Capoocan Mayor Marietta Porciuncula told the Inquirer that it was a conscious effort of the municipal government to encourage women's participation in development planning. Women's groups are also given livelihood programs.

Other winners

The other winners were:

- **Bulacan province**, which revived the spirit of cooperativism, focused on education, promoted women empowerment through the Provincial Commission for the Women of Bulacan and encouraged feedback from constituents through the Constituent Responsive Governance Project.
- **Concepcion in Iloilo**, which implemented the Zero Poverty 2020 program in 1999. This reduced poverty incidence from 87 percent in 2000 to only 47 percent in 2004.

The program also provided alternative livelihood to residents by giving them access to microfinance and supporting fisherfolk by protecting marine environments, and farmers, by giving them access to new farming technologies.

- **Malalag in Davao del Sur**, which started the Social Reform Agenda-Minimum Basic Needs program in 1997. This provided livelihood assistance to families.

The town reported the number of unemployed fathers went down from 894 in 1998 to only 10 in 2005, while the number of unemployed mothers went down from 1,816 to 37.

- **Muñoz in Nueva Ecija**, which hastened development programs by acquiring 21 units of construction equipment and vehicles, giving the city millions of savings in infrastructure projects.
- **Naga City in Camarines Sur**, which started the Productivity Improvement Program to professionalize the local government workforce through streamlining, eradicating red tape and giving incentives to employees, generating a 6.5-percent annual growth in local economy and attracting P612 million worth of investments from 2001 to 2003.
- **Oriental Negros**, which created the Gulayan at Palaisdaan Alay sa Kabataan program in 2002 to attract the youth back to farming and fishing by introducing these in schools.
- **Zamboanga City**, which launched the AIDS-Free Zamboanga City Program and became one of the only nine local government units in the country with a reliable system to monitor and counter the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases and infections.
- **Pasay City**, which has a community-based monitoring system to measure the living condition of each household in every barangay.

It also started the Bayanihan Banking Program, a pooled saving scheme among urban poor communities functioning like microfinance institutions, offering loans to residents with meager interests.

4 workers in US-funded road project abducted

From page A1

pick-up truck following an inspection of the road being constructed linking Patikul and Indanan towns here.

Brig. Gen. Reynaldo Sealana, commander of the Army's 104th Infantry Brigade, said another worker escaped unharmed and reported the abduction to the military.

USAID to continue projects

Matthew Lussenhop, information officer of the US Embassy in Manila, told the Inquirer by phone that the kidnapping could delay the implementation of USAID (US Agency for International Development) projects in Sulu.

"Definitely, it will have an impact on some specific projects, probably a brief delay," he said.

"It was tragic and unacceptable especially now that we are in the peak of our development efforts," Lussenhop said.

But he said the abduction would not deter America's commitment to help in the development of Sulu.

"We are committed to push with the development efforts on the island," he said.

Loong said that one of the gunmen was identified as Bong Salih, a security officer in the project being implemented by Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM).

"It might be a labor problem or for ransom, we are still trying to verify the motive of the kidnapping," Sealana said. He said soldiers had been dispatched to track down the gunmen.

Abducted at Barangay Saldang in Parang town were Romeo Rivera, an engineer with the Davao City-based Monolithic Construction; Reynaldo Rubio and Larry Bautista, both consultants with Terra Syme Chemicals of Manila; and Isidro Amarado, driver of the truck owned by Loong.

"It's really very unfortunate to have this kind of incident in our place," Loong told the Inquirer.

Loong said he was hoping that the abduction would not deter the GEM from pursuing its projects in the province, including ports, seaweed warehouses, bridges and school buildings, and potable water systems.

Monolithic Construction and Concrete Products was hired by the GEM for the road construction project.

'Hardworking'

Eufemia Basic, the company's executive secretary, described its engineer, Rivera, as a "hardworking" employee, who has been with the firm since 1995. Rivera is a civil engineering graduate, married and has two children, she said.

The victim's younger brother, Azer, was shocked to learn the news about the abduction.

"I tried to call him yesterday," he said in a phone interview.

"What are the police and military doing now?" he asked. *With reports from Dennis Santos and Jeffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

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RP peacekeeper caught with bullets at Singapore airport

By Nikko Dizon

THE PHILIPPINE CONTINGENT of the UN Peacekeeping Force in East Timor almost did not make it to their destination after one of its members was briefly detained in Singapore when five bullets were discovered in her hand carried luggage.

Manuelina de la Cruz was held by the Singapore State Police for investigation, according to documents obtained by the INQUIRER.

The 50-man UN Peacekeeping contingent from the PNP left Manila on Oct. 14 via Singapore Airlines flight SQ 73.

They were to take a connecting flight from Singapore's Changi airport to Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia and on to East Timor.

According to the documents, the group informed Singaporean authorities that they will not continue on to East Timor if De la Cruz would not be allowed to leave with them.

Authorities cleared De la Cruz for travel just as the airline was preparing for all the members of the UN Peacekeeping force to be offloaded from their connecting flight.

The Singapore police confiscated the bullets.

The entire incident delayed the connecting flight out of Singapore for 11 minutes.

Concerned over what it deemed as a security breach at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, as well as the inconvenience the delay brought to other passengers, the airline promptly brought the incident to the attention of the PNP Aviation Security Group (ASG).

The airline informed the ASG that there had been several instances where passengers from Manila undergoing security check for their connecting flights at the Singapore airport had been caught with live bullets or shells in their possession.

The ASG and the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) had been warning Filipino travelers against bringing bullets in their flights as international standards consider these items prohibited inside an aircraft cabin.

Live bullets should be properly identified and checked in.

Despite the security lapse in De la Cruz's case, the ASG also apprehends almost on a daily basis Filipino passengers who insist on bringing empty bullets or casings with them believing that these are "anting-anting" (amulets) that could ward off evil spirits or bad luck.

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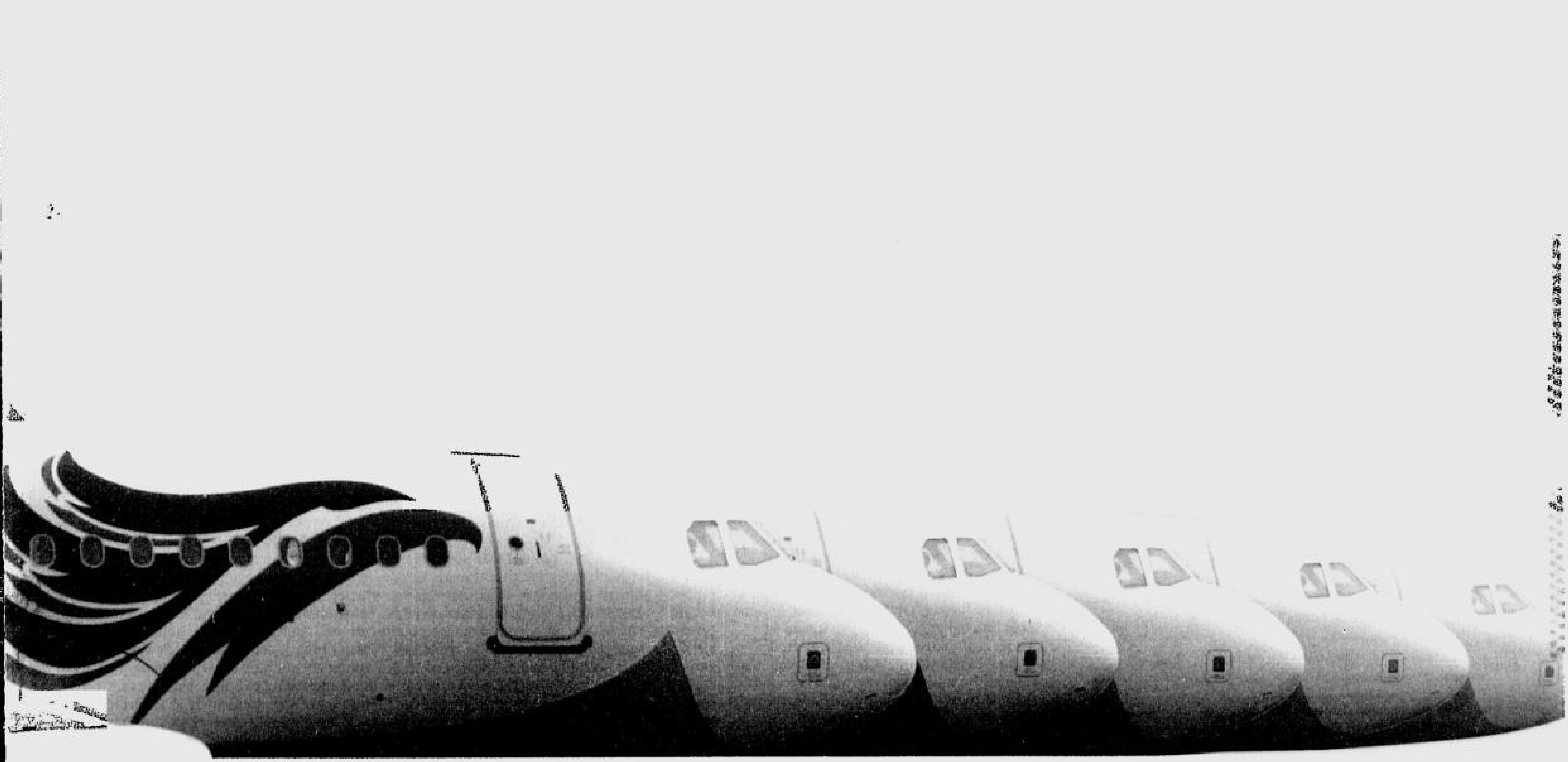

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OPINION

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Prying open the PCGG

EDITORIAL

POWER NOT ONLY CORRUPTS BUT APPARENTLY addles the mind too. Or how else can one explain the embarrassing display of ignorance by some of the country's top lawyers whom President Macapagal-Arroyo recruited into her administration, like Camilo Sabio, a valedictorian of the Ateneo College of Law, or Eduardo Nachura, a law professor and author of law books? Sabio, who is chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, challenged the authority of the Senate to make him testify on matters related to his office. Nachura, as the solicitor general, defended his defiance. Both suffered a stinging defeat before the Supreme Court, along with everyone else in Malacañang who had rushed to Sabio's defense.

The Senate committee on government corporations had earlier summoned Sabio and his commissioners to explain the huge losses allegedly incurred by the sequestered Philcomsat Holdings Corp. They all refused to do so, saying they were allowed by law to keep close to their chests anything related to the functions of the PCGG. They cited in particular a provision of Executive Order No. 1 which says: "No member or staff of the commission shall be required to testify or produce in any judicial, legislative or administrative proceeding concerning matters within its official cognizance."

Senators argued that the EO, which was promulgated in February 1986 under a revolutionary government, was repealed by the 1987 Constitution. They said the provision violated the principle of public accountability of all government officials and curtailed the right of Congress to conduct investigations in aid of legislation. And because it was in conflict with these constitutional provisions, that provision could no longer be considered part of the law. Legal experts, like Fr. Joaquin Bernas, S.J., pointed out that it is basic in a democracy that any law that is inconsistent with the fundamental law is invalid even if it has not been formally repealed by the legislature.

And that is exactly how the Supreme Court ruled after Sabio questioned his arrest for ignoring a Senate subpoena ordering him to appear before the committee on government corporations. Voting unanimously, the Court upheld the Senate position that it can summon PCGG officials to testify at committee hearings. The Court said the immunity that EO 1 conferred on PCGG officials was "inconsistent with the principle of public accountability" since it put them "beyond the reach of the courts, Congress and administrative bodies." It also declared that Congress' power to investigate was "broad enough to cover officials of the Executive Branch" and reaffirmed an earlier ruling that "the power of inquiry is co-extensive with the power to legislate."

With that legal issue now settled, the Filipino people will finally get a peek into the goings-on in the PCGG and the companies that are under government sequestration. Perhaps, they will get to know more about the many perks and privileges being enjoyed by the commissioners and the government nominees in the boards of these corporations and come to understand how some companies have been driven close to bankruptcy. And they might come to know more about the deals being negotiated—such as the one involving the shares in San Miguel that were purchased with the coconut levy fund—before they are consummated.

In some of these companies, the people have been—or continue to be robbed—all over again. Opening them up to public scrutiny just might help stop or diminish the grand larceny.

Putin's Russia

FOREIGN COMMENT

THE FEARLESS, INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST ANNA POLITkovskaya is the 13th journalist killed in Russia since the former KGB agent Vladimir Putin came to power.

Critical journalism facing hard times in Putin's land is nothing new. Nor is it news that it steadily becomes more dangerous to shine the spotlight on Russia's power elite, whether political or economic. The American Committee for the Protection of Journalists ranks Russia as one of the world's most dangerous countries for journalists.

Lyudmila Alexeyeva, one of Russia's foremost human rights activists and leader of the Helsinki Committee in Moscow, is in no doubt that the murder of Politkovskaya was politically motivated. She exposed the crimes of the state, and had to be silenced, says Alexeyeva, who does not believe the murder will be solved.

Neither do we. Not in Putin's Russia. *Verdens Gang (Oslo, Norway)*

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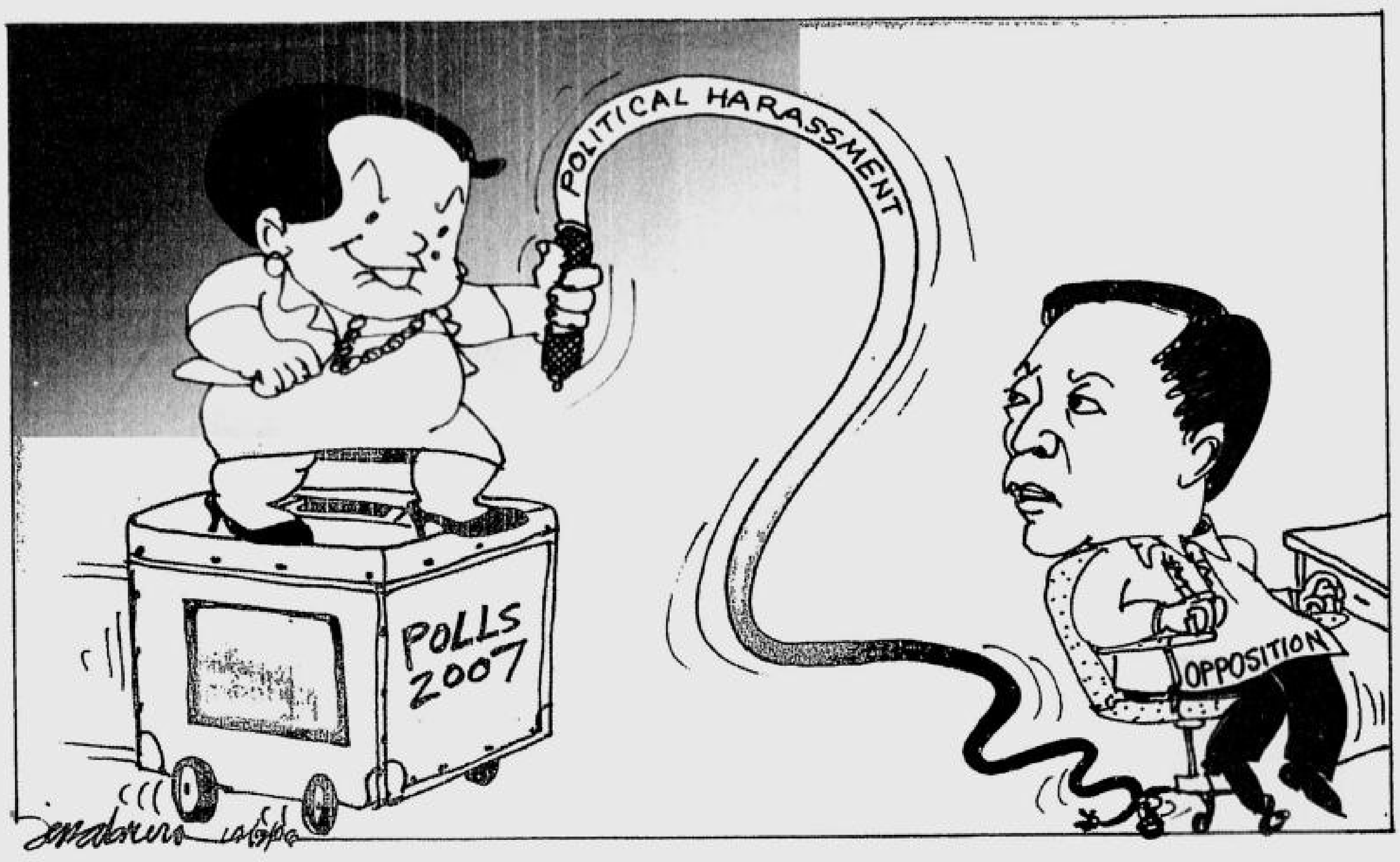

Bamboo reed vision

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"DO NOT LOOK AT THE HEAVENS THROUGH a bamboo reed," an old farmer's proverb counsels. But isn't this what we do with issues that surge into headlines, then just as quickly recede?

The killer floods of Ormoc City in Northern Leyte and Liloan town in Southern Leyte were forgotten as Aurora and Quezon were swamped. Chemical-laced rivers in Marinduque slipped into the inside pages as Rapu-Rapu and Guimaras bolted up front. Dwindling fish catches and shrinking mangrove stands were shoved to the back burners.

In nature, everything is interconnected. So, these are not disjointed reports. Rather, these are snapshots of a resource system crumbling from ecological IOUs, racked up by our wasteful ways. That debt has been compounded by our equally profligate ancestors.

"If you have a vision of the future," President Marcos wrote, "that vision determines management of the present." Marcos' vista didn't include Hawaiian exile. But the guideline remains valid: only minds freed from "bamboo reed" blinders can steer.

Long vanished resources, however, still hobble mindsets today. Our forest cover is down to 18 percent, from over 40 percent half a century ago. But we've not faced up to today's scarcities. In water-short Cebu City, Mayor Tomas Osmeña embraces a mirage of adequate water supply that invites policy disaster.

Lift up your eyes, Princess Sirindhorn of Thailand counsels. "Look beyond forests, grasslands and oceans to the more dangerous dimension," this Magsaysay awardee wrote. "Examine the systems that underpin capacity to feed our world, namely: biodiversity."

Various forms of animal and plant life contain unique genes—life's building blocks. They combine into new food, products, etc. Genes from Philippine corn breed resistance against downy mildew. Splicing Indian and Taiwan genes brought forth "miracle rice."

"God's genetic library" is packed with millions of years of evolution. Only 15 percent have scientific names. Drugs against cancer and AIDS come from tropical forest plants. "It is a world complex beyond understanding and valuable beyond measure."

But as habitats shrink, species disappear, like the flowerpecker (*dicaeum quadricolor*) or giant clams. They vanish with their genes. Destroying "keystone" species, Oxford University's Norman Myers warns, triggers "domino effects." As genes crumble, the web of life unravels, slowly at first, then at ever greater speed.

Problems like test leakages, crimes, etc. are worrisome. But reforms can correct them. In contrast, bio-diversity loss is irreversible. Destruction of unique life forms has no recall from obliteration. Extinction is forever.

Few of us think three or four generations ahead. Yet, damage to dynamited coral reefs or degraded forests cannot be undone in a generation, let alone by changing constitutions. Treating tomorrow as another today is folly.

But, perhaps, we can grasp this: genetic forfeiture closes off little-understood options for our grandchildren. So, "the optimum number of species to be preserved should be the maximum number we're able to conserve."

The study "Corruption, Poverty and the Loss of Biological Treasure in the Philippines" stresses the link between the country's poor and plant and animal resources now under threat. Written by Murdoch University's Herb Thomson, it warns:

"Any non-political approach that calls upon generalized public opinion or a leader to end the devastation is supremely misguided. (The problem) is not simply a function of 'rotten' individuals, but social relationships that permit these types to gain and utilize power .... With a corrupt rent-seeking regime in power, there is no possibility that the resources essential to solving both problems will occur."

Measures from firm enforcement of laws to security of tenure are not new. But reforms need to advance rapidly, particularly in the poorest areas: Central Mindanao, Eastern Visayas and the Cordilleras. "Crony protectionism and rent-seeking, detrimental to the poor must be halted."

The role of power (corruption) over environmental matters controls resources, prioritization of projects, distribution and access to capital, he notes. It "inscribes the environment with the relationships of class power .... Problems of poverty and biological disappearance (will persist) until 'people power' confronts this unequal power of classes."

Like governments, ecosystems can break down, not only "under a mighty blow but also at the flick of a butterfly's wing." A minor event—whether generated by a corrupt president, El Niño, or logging of steep forested hillsides—may start a chain reaction that can lead to social upheaval.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and other "leaders" cannot solve problems of poverty and biological disappearance until "people power" confronts the unequal power of classes within the Philippines, Thomson stresses. To curb the corruptive power of individuals, and more so the corruption of class power will require pain: "substantial social and economic dislocation."

Thomson, however, asserts that Filipinos have a "comparative advantage." And what is that? The numerous, broad-based civil society organizations. "People power" remains a potent force for reform.

In our ecological wasteland, when all is said and done, it is the ordinary citizen who provides hope. "If you keep green boughs of hope in your heart," the Chinese say, "the singing bird will come."

* * *

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Hope springs infernal

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

COMING HOME FROM THE UNITED STATES a couple of weeks ago, I got to talking on the plane with a flight attendant who said he was lucky his job allowed him to go to San Francisco periodically. His wife lived there now, working as a registered nurse in one of the hospitals and was doing quite well. He and the kids were still in the Philippines, but they too would probably be migrating to the United States soon. His youngest kid, who was finishing high school here, would probably be doing college in America.

He himself wasn't doing so badly here but what could he do? The long-distance marriage was taking its toll on family. Someone had to give in, and it wasn't likely going to be his wife. It wasn't just that she earned better and had a more secure job, it was that she opened doors to new vistas. She represented the future, especially for the kids. He represented only the past. Or a present that was going nowhere.

I know somebody else who was, or is, in the same boat. More than my flight attendant-friend, he was in even better shape here, having become by dint of pluck and hard work a well-known reporter for one of the biggest networks in the country. He married a few years ago, and his wife also managed to land a well-paying job as a nurse in the US West Coast. She left for it last year. The new marriage hanging in the balance, the guy decided after much hand-wringing to follow her and plunge into the unknown. The unknown has proven less than rewarding, and he has been known to communicate his frustration and loneliness to friends here during his dark nights of the soul.

Before I left the United States a couple of weeks ago, some of my friends who now lived and worked there asked me to tell them honestly what I thought of Filipinos like them who did so. As far as they knew, they said, one congressman had called them traitors. I replied that completely honestly I was two minds about it.

On one hand, I could understand the pull that America in particular exerted on Filipinos and the push that sent them there. Both were exceedingly powerful forces, the push alone in recent years becoming even more powerful than the pull. The utter wretchedness of the country and the blanket impoverishment of the soul as much as—if not more so (we're becoming a nation of cheats and murderers, if we haven't done so already)—of the body, were truly driving people away.

Quite apart from that, I said, I was impressed by the extent to which Filipinos abroad like my friends had their hearts still set on trying to help improve the land of their birth. At least they were still concerned with its concerns. That was more than could be said for many Filipinos in the Philippines, especially these days. Of course, I said, I wasn't impressed by the attitude of those who figured they should be listened to because they knew better as they were coming from a "superior position." I had met those types, too, and they had always reminded me of Oscar Wilde's brilliant aphorism that a little learning is a dangerous thing. And of course, I added, I didn't know if the Filipinos abroad who were still deeply concerned about the future of the Philippines were the teeming majority or merely the vocal minority.

On the other hand, I said, I was also deeply fazed by the depth and breadth of the exodus of Filipinos abroad. At the very least that was so because even people I never imagined would dream of leaving are not just dreaming so but are doing so, even as we speak. The two cases above are just an infinitesimal fraction of it. I know more, a lot more. With the killings in particular raging around us, can you blame some of them? Prudence is the better part of valor, escape is the better part of standing your ground.

But more than this, I am fazed by the impact the idea of being able to migrate abroad is having on the country. That is the far greater worry, more than the sheer number, alarming enough as it is, of Filipinos actually migrating abroad.

I can believe the Pulse Asia survey that says a third of the population now wants to leave the country, as compared to 19 percent two or three years ago. I personally think it's more, if it's just a question of wanting to leave quite apart from having the ability to leave. Most Filipinos would think nothing of living abroad, especially in the United States, if only they could, or if the US Embassy would only give them visas. Most others would think nothing of becoming OFWs, if only they could land contracts abroad, or if they had anything left to sell to be able to apply for it.

But the possibility, or hope, or dream of being able to live and/or work abroad is there, and whether that is an impossible dream or not, it is serving precisely the same function the song, "The Impossible Dream," did for us many years ago on the road to Edsa. It goads us, flails at us, even inspires us, such as clinging to a vague, amorphous or a fleeting dream can do. More than reality, being able to leave for abroad is a possibility; more than a possibility, it is a hope; more than a hope, it is a dream. And possibilities, hopes and dreams lodge deeper in the mind than anything the here and now can offer. Often, they blot out the here and now completely.

Which is the real danger. I half-suspect the so-called indifference of the Filipino today owes to this as much as to the absence of a "good" to posit against the Arroyo government's "evil." The possibility, hope, or dream of being able to live and work abroad was never this bad during Marcos' time. Certainly, it wasn't this all-consuming. Today, people seem willing to tolerate cheating, lying and stealing—and killing to boot—because they can always leave the country. Or at least die trying. Or at least live deluding. Hope springs eternal.

Hope springs infernal.

Suspension is part of the process

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AS IN OTHER HIGHLY CHARGED CASES, OBscured in the recent controversy involving Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay is the fact that he's not being arrested for graft and corruption. He was merely issued by the Department of Interior and Local Government a preventive suspension for 60 days. This is a step prescribed by the Local Government Code when there is *prima facie* evidence of malfeasance in office against a local executive. Preventive suspension is imposed so that investigation would be facilitated and to ensure that pertinent documents are not destroyed.

* * *

Binay and all the members of the city council are accused of having kept ghost employees over the years, allegedly defrauding the city government of hundreds of millions of pesos. His accusers, led by former councilor Roberto Brillante, claim they have all the documents to nail them down. Under our laws, accused and accuser will have their day in court if the investigation warrants it, and if Binay turns out to be innocent, he will be allowed to return to office.

* * *

The problem is that Binay considers himself above the law, having been entrenched for 20 years and feeling confident that his dynasty will rule Makati for the next 100 years. He not only sought to preempt the DILG's service of suspension by seeking a TRO from the court, he has also barricaded himself in his brand-new city hall tower. The opposition, led by former President Corazon Aquino, as well as his supporters have rallied behind Binay, crying political persecution. Tension is high in Makati.

The DILG's move has been criticized as impolitic and it's easy to see why. After the second impeachment move was roundly defeated, the opposition quieted down in seeming bewilderment. Though its members fight against the people's initiative, they seem unable to derail the bullet train of Charter change. Now they have found a new cause célèbre in Binay's suspension. *Nabuhay muli ang* opposition.

* * *

But all this does not negate the fact that there is due process and laws dealing with local officials who are the subject of complaints, and preventive suspension is part of that process. Binay should fight his case in court, not in city hall which he does not own. I suspect that he would find little sympathy for what he and his cohorts are doing, even in Makati, where rumors persist that he has amassed incredible wealth. Talk about his chief lieutenants' fund-raising activities has also buzzed for years. Reports say that students of the University of Makati are up in arms against school officials who are allegedly harassing the poor parents by continually jacking up tuition fees and not allowing them to sew their children's uniforms (these have to be purchased from the school or the children are denied admission). Binay is hardly the "model for mayors" that his long-time patron, Cory Aquino, has extolled.

* * *

Typhoon "Milenyo" has brought out the vaunted *bayanihan* spirit of Pinoys. To help Meralco with the mind-boggling task of repairing downed power lines in Metro Manila, power companies from Davao, Cebu and Angeles City sent their crews. Gerry Nepomuceno Jr., president and general manager of the Angeles Electric Corp., whom I praised earlier for restoring power in that city on the very night of the typhoon, sent three line crews the next day to Metro Manila. They were assigned to Valenzuela and then moved to Forbes Park, and a week later to Alabang. Nepomuceno said, "It's Angeles Electric's way of returning the favor to Meralco for its invaluable help in getting our area back on its feet in the aftermath of the Pinatubo eruption of 1991."

* * *

PDI "conspirators" Mandy Navasero and Fe Zamora recently organized a surprise party for PDI's eminent founder, Eggie Duran-Apostol, to celebrate her Magsaysay Award, and a good number of originals, led by editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, came. It was held in a very cozy restaurant on Yakal Street in Makati, whose fine dining area is called "La Vigne Bistro" and whose wine cellar is called "Titania Wine Cellars." Its owner, the good-looking former flight stewardess, Tita Meneses-Trillo, who used to own Beluga Bar, explained that her cellar carries French, Chilean, California and Australian wines ranging from the inexpensive to very expensive. The food was quite good, turned out by the sous chef, my niece Bernadette Olivares, daughter of Romy whose family owns the Fatima Medical School (she trained at Cordon Bleu and Les Rosches). We had a lot of fun reminiscing about the good old days at Mr. & Ms Magazine and the early PDI. We viewed the film made by Butch Nolasco, brother of PDI managing editor Joey Nolasco, of the award ceremony, amid a lot of toasting of Eggie with Madame Therese, a semi-dry white sparkling French wine which, according to Tita Trillo, is half the price of champagne. She later gifted each guest with a bottle of this wine. It was a truly great evening.

* * *

Bulacan Rep. Lorna Silverio not only has a solid track record in the House, but she also is a good entrepreneur, promoting jobs, and has an artistic bent. Last week, I joined some congressional spouses, led by Gina de Venecia, at the soft opening of the third outlet of Lorna's popular restaurant Brazil at the Serendra right across from Market! Market! in Fort Bonifacio. She has for partners Anita Chan and Aleta Suarez, wife of Quezon Rep. Danny Suarez. Lorna's first Brazil restaurant opened at Rockwell in March 2004, followed by a second at Metrowalk along Meralco Avenue in Pasig in November that year. They serve an eat-all-you-can mix of seafood, meats and veggies grilled in the famous style of Brazilian *churrascarias* or grill houses, which is quite healthy. The congresswoman decorated the restaurants with colorful wall paintings that she herself painted.

Yunus: 'Poor women are good credit risk'

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

THE RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARD FOUNDAtion (RMAF) is on Cloud 9 because its 1984 awardee for Community Leadership, Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh, is this year's Nobel Peace Prize winner. The RMAF was 22 years ahead of the Nobel in recognizing Yunus' work among the poor.

The Dalai Lama received his RM award (Asia's Nobel, so-called) in 1959, 30 years before his Nobel in 1989. Mother Teresa got her RM award in 1962, 17 years earlier than her Nobel.

This means that Asia, the RMAF of the Philippines in particular, is not behind—it is in fact way ahead—in recognizing its own home-grown heroes and, yes, long before these names have become familiar to the world.

Yunus was only 44 when he received his RM award in 1984, one of the youngest in RMAF's roster of laureates. Now there is an RM award for Emergent Leadership for those below or on the threshold of 40. Yunus was quite surprised that he was chosen at that time because Grameen banking (microfinance) for the poor was not yet a byword. This is what Yunus said in 1984:

"I still cannot make out how the trustees of this prestigious foundation could notice a small effort such as ours, which has reached only some 100,000 in a population of more than 90 million. (As of July 2006, the population is 147.3 million—INQUIRER Research Department) I can only admire the foundation for taking a big risk in choosing me."

Because of the Nobel Peace Prize, Yunus will surely be quoted very often these days, listened to, queried. His words and work will be dissected.

Let's listen some more to what this economist, said in 1984. Do we recognize a glimmer of the grand possibilities?

"As a student of social science, I could not feel comfortable with what I learned. When it came to applying this knowledge in solving real problems, it appeared toothless. I continued to get a feeling that the knowledge that we present in the discipline of social science is replete with pretensions and make-believe stories ….

"Social scientists enjoy being up above in the sky and having a panoramic bird's-eye view over a wide horizon …. The view from the sky without the supportive close-up view from the ground merely encourages you to take recourse to daydreaming.

"Not all people have access to a bird's-eye view. Poor people don't. They are too busy eking out a survival for themselves with their worm's-eye view …. Poverty can be better understood if we look at it from the ground level at a very close range. Then, instead of generating billions of words about it, we can find ways to cope with it.

"Poverty is not caused by a person's unwillingness to work hard or lack of skill. As a matter of fact, a poor person may work very hard—even harder than others—and he has more skill and time than he can use. He languishes in poverty because he does not receive the full worth of his work. Under the existing social and economic institutional arrangements, someone else always comes in between and skims off the income that was due to him. The existing economic machinery is designed in such a way that it allows this process of grabbing to continue and gather strength every day, so that the earnings of others can make a handful of people richer and turn a large number of people into paupers.

"A poor person cannot arrange a larger share or return for his work because his economic base is paper-thin. If he can gradually build up an asset-base, he can command a better share. Land to the landless will help build up this base. There are other forms of assets that will improve his economic situation. Credit, for example; it is a liquid asset. The recipient of credit can decide which particular tangible form he will convert this asset into …. With financial resources at his disposal, an individual is free to build his own fate with his own labor. Nothing can match the spirit of a free human being ….

"Removal of poverty must be a continuing process of creation of assets by the poor at a steady rate. Poor people know what they must do to get out of the rut. But the people who make decisions refuse to put faith in their ability…."

For more on Asia's greats like Yunus, read RMAF's series of books on the RM awardees, "Great Men and Women of Asia." I found writing some of the stories in the books very inspiring because many of these great men and women were just like you and me when they set off.

I had the chance of listening to Yunus when he was here in 2001 to address "Grameen replicators." He mentioned then that the RMAF award helped boost the microfinance movement that he started in the 1970s in a small village in Bangladesh, through small loans to the poor, especially women. The Grameen way has since taken root in many parts of the world.

When asked why Grameen has a bias for women, Yunus replied: "Because women are good people. Poor women are a good credit risk, even in the most difficult economic times. They are the best judge of their own situation and they know best how to use credit when it is available, especially when supervised and encouraged by their peers. Small business loans pave the way to breaking their poverty cycle. In just one program operating in Southern Luzon, over 1,000 women and their families crossed the poverty line between 1997 and 2000."

The Grameen-style microfinance movement is growing in the Philippines. In 2001, repayment rate was at 93 percent. Interested in mocrofinancing? Contact Philnet at philnet@mozcom.com.

Microfinance is not in the curriculum of business schools. Maybe, it is learned first and best in the school of the heart. And on the ground, like Yunus did.

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

Having the cake

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

TO UNDERSTAND POLITICS IN MAKATI REquires effort. There must be a deliberate attempt to see for one's self what one is up against—and what one must do. Makati is two worlds—two worlds that should not be antagonistic toward each other but, in reality, often are.

In 2001, I accompanied then-candidate Teodoro Locsin Jr. speak to the poor and the rich, to those who lived by the railroads and those who lived inside guarded enclaves. He said: you are not all multimillionaires; yet you all have the same desires. To keep your neighborhoods safe; to preserve and protect your property rights; to enable, if possible, the extension of the enjoyment of those rights to others as well. The lower middle-class resident of Guadalupe Viejo and the owner of a house and lot in San Lorenzo Village, all have the same worries; the squatter living along the rails has a family, the same as the Makati resident who has the luxury—modest or not—of owning their own home. The duty of a congressman is to represent their common interests in Congress, to secure for all these people stability and a share of the nations resources, and to satisfy their legitimate needs.

At the time, I wrote that this well thought-out position (and that of the city administration that backed him) borne out of the tireless effort to accommodate all—rich and poor, squatter and plush villager, lower-middle-class family and prosperous clan—could only be countered by his opponents in two ways: either by cutting off their noses to spite their faces; or by preferring a candidate who has all the qualifications of a social worker or an entertainer but not of a congressman.

In one of candidate Locsin's campaign sortie, I ran into Jejomar Binay, who knew in those post Edsa II days that I was no fan of his. But Binay, instead of pandering to me, merely acknowledged that we once stood on opposite camps: "So, you are the one who has hit me, and hit me hard in what you have written," he said to me, and then finished off by saying, "good."

Sitting beside Binay as he sat down and shoveled rice into his mouth, I saw why all the earnestness of some of his opponents is nothing compared to what people, like Binay, do.

In between handfuls of rice, Binay's eyes roved, and his mind probed: "Two corners away, there is garbage on the sidewalk," he informed an anxious barangay kagawad; and then, referring to a mass housing he had put up (and for which he had been attacked), he called attention to a street lamp, telling another nervous local leader that the "lamp has burned out and needs a new bulb." He gulped down some water, and then looked up at the ceiling: "When was this barangay hall last painted? You have adequate funds, why haven't you attended to this?" Under Binay's leadership, people are not only kept on their toes; they are doomed to accountability.

At the time, and ever since, I confessed to a renewed respect for Binay. I saw Binay in action even when he no longer knew that I was observing him. What I saw was not just *palabas* on Binay's part; and it was the nitty-gritty, the hard work and the attention to detail that won—and win—him loyalty house by house, street by street, barangay by barangay, and return to him an overwhelming mandate election by election.

But now his opponents would have Makati's cake and eat it it, too: that's what the administration takeover of Makati City is all about. At least, if you ask some observers. Locsin, now a Makati representative, puts it bluntly: "There are crooks in Malacañang targeting Makati because they want to steal the P6 billion to P8 billion of its annual income. Once they have taken over, they can capture the money and pocket it."

That's a lot of cake!

Binay is, of course, far from being universally popular. But he's popular where it counts—with the voters.

After all, let's take a look at some favorite arguments of the "let's move on" crowd and apply them to Binay and Makati City. What's sauce for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should be sauce for Binay.

You don't like Binay? Who, then, is your alternative? Bobby Brillante? Lito Lapid?

Accusations that he's got a finger in every pie? So Lapid would be better?

Binay is a crook? At best—allegedly. And Brillante? Ask the courts: he's certified!

Binay has embarked on dynasty-building? And the Arroyos haven't? Or the Lapids?

As the President said by way of a Bible-thumping challenge: Let him who is without sin cast the first stone!

Oh, but yes, the secretary of the interior has. He is without sin—that anyone can prove, anyway.

But still—as for the rest—the Palace logic can still apply.

You have charges? Where is your proof? Where is the evidence? And who is providing it? Brillante? And why aren't we following the rule of law? File it in the proper forum, the courts!

And what's all this about "morality"? Look at your officials. Ronaldo Puno? Brillante? Lito Lapid? Stop being so self-righteous! At the very least, they're all the same, aren't they? So let us move on. Anyway, Binay's term ends in 2007.

Why can't we just move on and stop all the political noise? Why can't we just focus on the economy? Why can't we respect the results of the last elections? Why can't we set aside imperial Manila and respect local government autonomy? Why can't we just unite?

Oh, because of all that cake! Literally. There'd be lots of birthdays coming up, and think of all the free advertising if every Makati birthday boy or girl would get a cake decorated with "GMA cares!" or "Yes to Cha-Cha!" or even "Vote for Genuino." Because, if you can't beat 'em—oust 'em. Which was precisely Binay's complaint during Edsa II, wasn't it?

Labeling

YOUNG BLOOD

Jacqueline Ortega

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

LABELS, LABELS, LABELS. LIFE IS FULL OF LABELS. You're labeled according to class, race and religion. But one of the biggest tags in life is your job. Haven't you noticed that when you are introduced to someone at a party or at a club, the first question he asks isn't where you go to church or where you were born, but what you do for a living? Which isn't surprising because as Jessica Guidobono advised, "A job is a self-portrait of the person who did it. Autograph your work with excellence."

I was job-tagged early on. Way back in high school, I was dubbed as "the next Oprah Winfrey." That was because aside from being a huge Oprah fan, I loved to talk and I could gab about a multitude of topics in a span of minutes. And I loved being in front of crowds and performing before audiences. Plus, I had a flair for writing, and I enjoyed working on my classmates' papers.

So, I knew exactly what I would do with my life: I was going to be a talk show host! And the logical first step was to work for a television station.

Soon after graduation from college, I landed my dream job and absolutely loved it. I was hired as a production assistant, which meant that I had to do all sorts of odd tasks and got the perks and the adventure.

Work took up my days and nights, my time and my energy. It was a 24/7 relationship. I gave it my all, and it gave me my wages, good training and experience. Which made perfect—until the day the ax fell.

I had heard the whispering left and right, but I really didn't pay much attention to it. Heck, I worked for a TV station, so *chismis* abounded in the workplace. Then my bosses called for me and didn't mince a word in telling me my contract had been terminated. I froze like a popsicle and felt like 10 million knives had being stuck in my chest, all at the same time. In a stupor, I excused myself.

After I lost my job, I must have gone through a million emotions—anger, helplessness, a desire for revenge, among them—but what blanketed all of them was an overwhelming and lingering sense of emptiness. I tried to fill myself by bingeing on food and booze, but my emotional void remained.

But after several days and nights of bumming, I told myself I had to come to my senses some time. I made a post-pity-party plan called "Operation: Put Yourself Together."

The first step was examining the state of my finances. How long could I realistically stay unemployed? I categorized things into: necessities, like food and water; nice things to have, which were luxuries, like shoes and makeup; and obligations, which were things I had to pay for like cell phone bills. I stuck religiously to the necessities and obligations, and steered clear of shop windows.

Next, I caught up with my family and friends, people I had callously left out of my loop while I was working, and listened to what they had to say about my plight. From them I learned never to underestimate the value of an outside perspective—it can help save your sanity!

Third, I made a list of "things I had always wanted to do but never had the time to do," and ended up with a whole array of activities. I went go-kart racing, saw all the Pinoy and French Indie films I had always wanted to critique, cleaned up my room, rewrote my resume, and surfed the Net daily to keep abreast of the latest news and look for writing tips.

Of course, I also did the inevitable "girl thing" of making the big physical changes reserved for the worst break-ups: I had my hair cut and cellophaned.

It was time to come to terms with my past and I had to 'fess up to myself. I replayed the entire job shindig in my mind and wrote down the fabulous things I had done and my apparent fumbles, and organized them in a chart. Grasping the entire experience in one hand, I realized that I couldn't entirely blame the other party for the "break-up." It was a two-way street. While I dismissed my bosses' misgivings about me, I came upon a couple of bare truths: every single day I was so focused on the end of the journey—the talk show, the riches, the fame—that I let go of the here and now and how each day could add to my learning and enhance my skills. Like what my favorite rocker JD Fortune once said: "Sometimes the best way to find what you are looking for is to stop looking for it. By this, I mean, the answers are usually within us and the harder we try to look ahead, the further we get from what's right in front of us."

Plus, I have to admit, I let my job label me. I became Jamie the production assistant, when it fact I was also Jamie the sister, the daughter, the friend, the fan, and that was why I felt so empty inside when I lost my job. In today's world of merging, downsizing and finite positions, change is inevitable. The relationships you have outside your workplace help you to become a wholly rounded person, and you learn from each and everyone you deal with.

Today, without my dream job, I am quite happy. A career path has many branches, and maybe the TV limb just wasn't meant for me. I am enjoying every step that my life takes me, always open to learning new things and creating perfect balances, knowing that ultimately the only person who can label me is myself.

Jacqueline Ortega, 24, works at Peoplesupport Philippines as an entertainment researcher and transcriptionist. She is also a freelance writer.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Choosy prosecutor

"Binay's suspension shows the ruthless schizophrenic, hypocritical GMA prosecuting local officials against her, while coddling others supporting her. It's time to use all licit moves to check her abuses."

—Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. on the suspension of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay

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Complainants were present

ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS, Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez claimed in a press conference that the complainants, including Kilosbayan and Bantay Katarungan, "boycotted" the hearings that were conducted by the investigating panel on the Mega Pacific-Comelec case.

It would have been quite easy for the Ombudsman to first check the records of the proceedings of the panel before she made that claim. Kilosbayan and Bantay Katarungan did not boycott the proceedings. In fact, for at least the first three hearings, I was present as counsel and representative of Kilosbayan and Bantay Katarungan. This fact was expressly admitted even in the very resolution of Sept. 25, 2006 signed by the Ombudsman herself. I was no longer able to attend the subsequent hearings because by then I had to be confined in the hospital.

In any event, during the initial hearings, I raised before the investigating panel one crucial matter—the question why the Office of the Ombudsman, through the investigating panel, would still investigate factual matters which had already been established in the decision of the Supreme Court of Jan. 13, 2004. The investigating panel never answered that question.

—EMILIO C. CAPULONG JR.,
counsel, Kilosbayan
and Bantay Katarungan,
Acacia Lane, Mandaluyong City

PRC says sorry for slip on Bicol University

WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE MISTAKE which appeared in the Performance of Schools and List of Examinees in the August 2006 Physician Licensure Examination that was published by the Professional Regulation Commission in the INQUIRER last Aug. 19. The announcement listed Bicol University with zero passing average in the examination. On Sept. 15, 2006, Dr. Susana Cabredo pointed out in a letter to the INQUIRER that Bicol University does not offer a course in medicine.

The data provided by this commission were based on school codes indicated in the application forms submitted by the examinees. Any discrepancy in the list was due to the miscoding of school codes by the examinees themselves in their application forms. It was entirely unintentional on the part of the commission.

Two examinees from the Bicol Christian College of Medicine inadvertently used the school code of Bicol University (Sch_Code=0746) in their application forms. The various measures that have been undertaken by this commission to address these lapses among applicants tend to be inadequate because of our limited manpower and material resources and the large number of applicants.

Rest assured that the commission will make the necessary corrections as soon as the two examinees resubmit the original and photocopies of their transcript of records.

—LEONOR TRIPON-ROSERO,
chair, Professional Regulation
Commission, P. Paredes Street cor.
N. Reyes Street, Sampaloc, Manila

Excellent proposal for improving education system

ALLOW ME, A RETIRED QUEZON City high school principal, to congratulate Aniceto Sobrepeña for his excellent proposal to make education a national priority. (PDI, 9/25/06)

I totally and passionately agree with his observation that "something is amiss" when all the billions of pesos that have been poured into all kinds of initiatives in education have had very little impact on the country's quality of education; and all the partner institutions have never really worked together on a common goal, thus failing to make a system-wide impact on a national scale.

His very laudable and practical proposal for everyone involved in education—whether in the public or private sector—to seriously consider working together over a period of five years on a common goal (1) that will focus on measurable performance; (2) that everyone— stakeholders, school administrators, teachers, parents, barangay officials and the business sector—will understand and easily grasp; (3) that is doable and can be achieved with success; and (4) that motivates and galvanizes everyone into action.

His proposed goal—to bring up the national average test results from 57 percent to 75 percent in five years—is certainly achievable and doable.

As for the four components of his proposal, all of them are necessary. But from my experience, the most important is the empowerment of the primary stakeholders, the school administrator, the teachers and the parents of students.

—CONSUELO D. SISON,
10 Alpha Road, Alpha Village,
Capitol Hills, Quezon City

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Barangay ignored in the issuance of 'sign permit'

TYPHOON MILENYO LEFT Metro Manila in disarray largely because of the fallen billboards. The question now is whether to totally ban billboards or to merely regulate them.

As far back as July 2004, we in Barangay Wack-Wack Greenhills East had already taken the initiative of regulating billboard display. We enacted on July 22, 2004 a barangay ordinance prescribing "Guidelines in the Grant of Barangay Clearances for Billboards, Signs, Signboards and Advertisements." This ordinance was approved by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of the City of Mandaluyong on Sept. 29, 2004. Specifically, the ordinance seeks to regulate the size, height, content and location, among others, of signs and billboards.

It is unfortunate though that despite the barangay's earnest efforts to regulate billboards, Mayor Neptali Gonzales II has ignored the barangay ordinance and still allowed the issuance of a "sign permit" on June 13, 2006 to BC Manila Corp. for the installation of an eight-story high billboard right on Edsa despite the barangay's denial and objection. The barangay denied BC Manila's application for sign permit because the billboard plan exceeded the allowable dimensions prescribed by our ordinance and its proposed site was right next to a Meralco power station, among other violations. BC Manila applied not only once or twice, but three times—and each time, the barangay denied its application.

We find it therefore strange that Mayor Gonzales and the concerned city hall officials still issued the sign permit to the firm.

—MARCOS V. ROCES,
barangay chair,
Wack-Wack Greenhills East,
Mandaluyong City

Quiambao welcomes Citra probe

ALLOW ME TO CLARIFY THE facts and shed light on the issues raised in the news item titled "House probes missing P244-M Skyway funds." (PDI, 9/21/06)

The claims about "missing funds" during my tenure as chief executive officer of Citra Corp. are baseless. They are malevolent attempts to cast doubt on my credibility and integrity, initiated by certain quarters pushing their own interests. Each and every centavo spent at Citra during my tenure was properly booked, audited and approved by shareholders.

The facts as presented by Representatives Rolex Suplico and Juan Miguel Zubiri are misleading. Citra owes $1.8 million to Stradoc, a company that I do not deny I am associated with. The funds in question were approved following appropriate corporate auditing procedures. All the funds in question were monies involved in inter-corporate business deals and no funds were advanced to me personally, as insinuated by Suplico and Zubiri.

I welcome the call for a probe on the Citra funds. Although Citra is a privately owned company, I also welcome the move of Suplico and Zubiri for an independent house investigation.

I believe that Suplico's and my detractors' actions are a reaction to my advocacy for transparency and good governance in the PNCC. As early as 2004, I have crusaded, on a personal basis, for a thorough review by the government of the PNCC franchise, which is outrightly disadvantageous to the public. I called on government officials to level the playing field and allow competitive public bidding for the franchise, and that the PNCC should refrain from making negotiated deals with other private entities with PNCC contracts.

Furthermore, I called attention to the "focus" of some members of Congress toward the PNCC fiasco. As it is, the PNCC is already in default of about P3 billion in debts, and that the PNCC has failed in its contractual obligation to construct the Calamba-Lucena stretch and the Angeles-Carmen roads.

I would suggest that Suplico and company concentrate more on the issues regarding the renewal of the PNCC franchise and its obligations rather than on leading a personal vendetta against me. They are mandated by the Filipino people who voted them to office to protect the best interests of the public first and foremost. There are the COA and Neda reports; there are actions from independent groups both from government and the private sector; there are tons of investigative news reports. All urge our lawmakers to carefully review, scrutinize and evaluate the PNCC franchise for the benefit of the public.

I believe that in the end, the truth will speak for itself, and that my detractors, who are well-oiled and well-financed for a smear campaign against me, will be unmasked.

—CEZAR T. QUIAMBAO,
founding member,
Toll Regulatory Board,
Unit 1705 Raffles Corporate
Center, Emerald Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

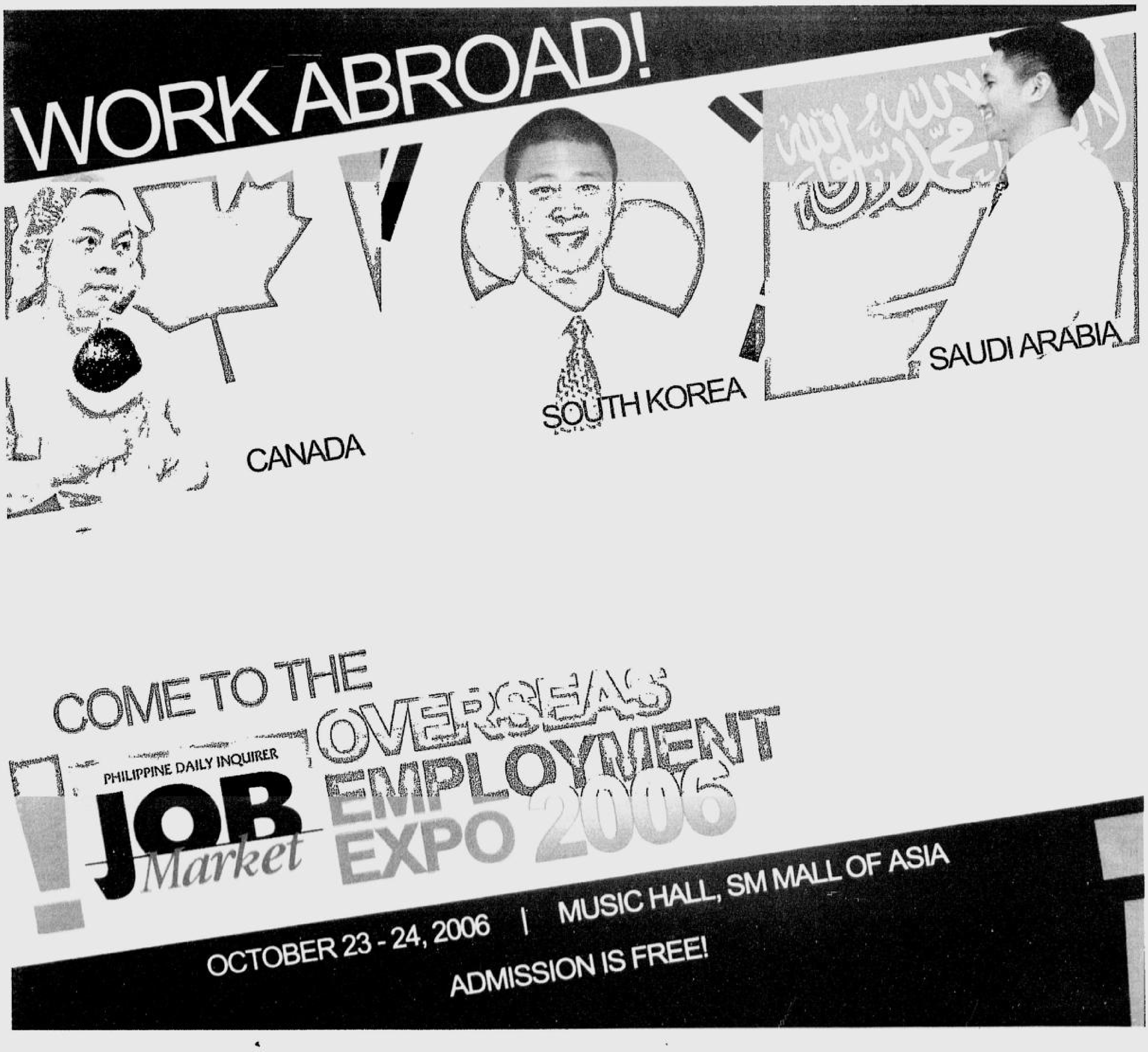
Human error caused accident

THIS REFERS TO THE LETTER of Estel Rimando on the accident that killed news people in Pamplona. (PDI, 8/30/06)

Gilbert C. Olfindo, district engineer of the Department of Public Works and Highways-Camarines Sur, reported that his office has inspected the accident site in Barangay Del Rosario, Pamplona. Contrary to the allegation that it is poorly maintained, the pavement there is in good condition. However, to assure public safety, additional traffic signages have been installed.

Olfindo also said that based on the report of the Philippine National Police dated Aug. 31, the main cause of the accident was human error.

—ELIZABETH P. PILORIN,
officer in charge-chief,
Public Information Division,
Department of Public Works
and Highways, Manila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ADMISSION IS FREE!

Why are they afraid to bring the issue of People's Initiative to the Filipino people?

1 *There is no truth to claims* by certain self-interested quarters that the new Constitution will reduce the powers of the Supreme Court as defined by the 1987 Constitution. Absolutely no truth. It is not commonsensical to antagonize the Supreme Court.

2 *There is no definite legal doctrine* on the difference between amendment and revision. Even if there is and the People's Initiative can propose only amendments, the ***proposal to shift to a parliamentary system—resulting in the fusion of the Legislative and Executive branches of government—is an amendment and not a revision.***

3 *It has been said that only* a Constitutional Convention or a Constituent Assembly of Senators and Congressmen can revise the Constitution. Yet the Senators and Congressmen are only Representatives or Agents of the people. It is therefore clear that the people themselves—the Sovereign Filipino People—as the Principals can by themselves amend or revise the Constitution by direct action—the People's Initiative.

4 *The 6.3 million signatures* verified by Comelec registrars nationwide, in every province and congressional district in support of the People's Initiative petition, constitute a great number of Filipinos in this debate on Charter amendments. The number far exceeds the minimum constitutional requirement of 12 percent of registered voters nationwide for the initiative to prosper.

5 *The figure also confirms* the steady mounting increase—periodically tracked by public opinion surveys—in the Filipino people's support for the shift to a parliamentary system of government. It was 10 percent last year. By September this year, the figure jumped to 48 percent. Now it has exceeded 52 percent. Those for People's Initiative number 48 percent; for Constituent Assembly 28 percent; and for Constitutional Convention, favored by Senators, only 22 percent.

6 *This growing support* sends an unmistakable message: ***Filipinos are fed up with the presidential system and the political culture of negative politics*** that it has bred. They are fed up with the constant fighting among Senators and Congressmen, the Senate's failure to pass hundreds of critical laws, and the unending and often wild attacks by Senators on the President. Let's put an end to this democracy of deadlock, an end to negative and destructive politics.

7 *Charter reform is the last* remaining hope of the nation to bring about a new political system and make the country stable at home, competitive abroad, and respected in the community of nations.

8 *The Comelec's dismissal* of the petition was anchored on a non-existing doctrine because the Santiago ruling is only an opinion applicable only to the Delfin and Pirma cases of 1997 and not to the present *Sigaw ng Bayan* or any other People's Initiative petition.

9 *Since there are clashing* views on Charter reform and the People's Initiative to amend the Constitution, then ***why don't we let the Filipino people decide the issue once and for all?*** Indeed, why are the opposition, the habitual critics, the spokesmen of the status quo, afraid to bring the issue to a nationwide plebiscite—for a direct vote by the Filipino people? Why are they raising technicalities at the Comelec and at the Supreme Court to prevent Charter reform from reaching the people and being decided by the people once and for all?

10 *Let us call* a national plebiscite—and let the Filipino people themselves decide the fate of Charter reform. Let them vote "Yes" or "No" on this historic amendment—the shift from a bicameral presidential to a unicameral parliamentary government.

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A16 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2006

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Duterte names mayor in drug trade

DAVAO CITY—MAYOR RODRIGO DUTERTE HAS tagged Parang, Maguindanao Mayor Abo Talib and his wife as illegal drug operators who managed to sneak in to this city some P3.5 million worth of shabu but were freed by two arresting officers.

The two arresting policemen failed to immediately report their findings and let go of the vehicle, an ambulance, that carried the illegal drugs. The incident happened several months ago, Duterte said.

Abo denied the allegations.

Duterte revealed this information before the City Council session on Tuesday, after he was summoned—his first time as Mayor—to shed light on the reported illegal drugs trade in the city.

With him to also share information was Supt. Wilkins Villanueva, the Southern Mindanao chief of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and Senior Supt. Catalino Cuy, city police chief.

Duterte also mentioned several other names allegedly involved in the illegal drugs trade and are operating in the cities of Cagayan de Oro, Iligan, Marawi, Cotabato and Ozamiz.

Duterte said Abo and his wife head the so-called "Abo Drug group."

He also named Luis Francisco, another suspected drug lord who told authorities what he knew about the illegal drugs ring after he was arrested by authorities some two years ago.

Duterte said Francisco made a bargain with authorities in exchange for his freedom, identifying other drug lords in the syndicate.

Two weeks ago, Francisco was shot dead by still unidentified assailants in Davao City.

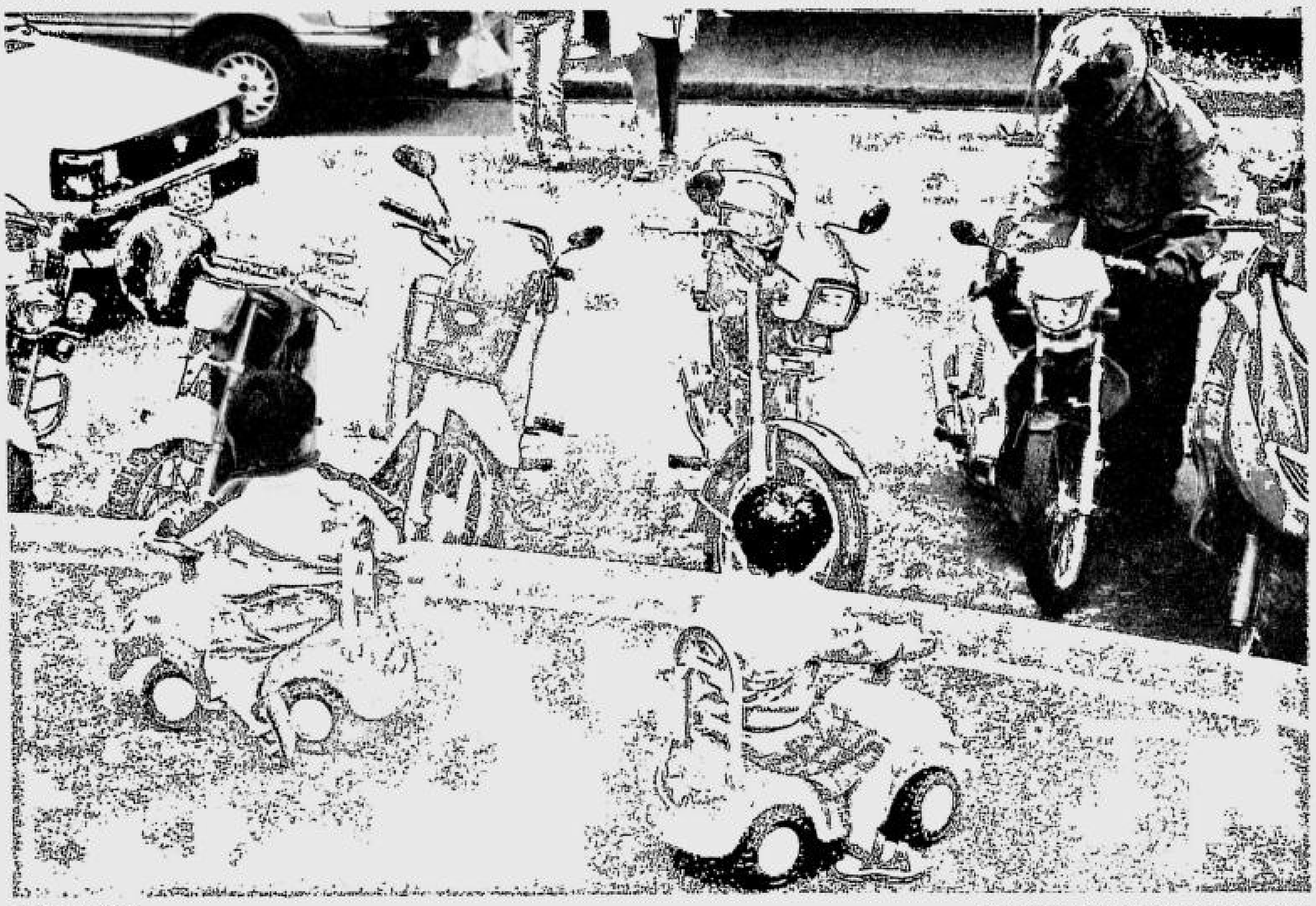
Duterte also named a certain Peter Chao, Lucky Musa, Leo Luna and Siongco as among those involved in the illegal drugs trade.

Asked by the INQUIRER if he was ready to face libel charges because of his statements, Duterte said: "I am ready to answer. It's my duty to report to the people."

But Mayor Abo said he was "glad Mayor Duterte broke his silence by identifying those in the illegal drug business."

"At least now I can (officially) respond," Abo said, adding that he has no plans of filing countercharges against Duterte.

Two weeks ago, the 29 town mayors of Maguindanao, led by Gov. Andal Ampatuan, called on Duterte to name the mayor he was referring to as having been caught transporting shabu to the city using an ambulance. *Dennis Jay Santos with reports from Charlie Señase and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*



VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

BIG BIKES
Two children playing with their toy cars are drawn by their curiosity nearer, but dangerously close, to a row of motorcycles parked in downtown Baguio City.

Peace panel told: Study Cordillera experience

BAGUIO CITY—GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATORS discussing peace with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front were advised to look first at how ancestral land titles have been processed in the Cordillera before they proceed, regional officials said on Tuesday.

The Land Registration Authority (LRA) refuses to legitimize Certificates of Ancestral Land Titles (CALTs) and Certificates of Ancestral Domain Titles (CADTs) issued by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) because of a rule that only the Department of Environment and Natural Resources can process land titles, lawyer Leilene Carantes-Gallardo, NCIP Cordillera director, said.

Thomas Killip, presidential assistant for Cordillera affairs, said Secretary Silvestre Afable, the government's lead negotiator, will need to be apprised about this problem in the bureaucracy before he pursues a stage in the negotiations aimed at resolving the MILF's claims to ancestral lands in their territories.

Killip said the process of legitimizing the land claims of MILF might encounter the same difficulty because of the LRA guidelines.

Gallardo said the NCIP and LRA have started talks to harmonize their rules, but the problem has already stalled 38 CADTs and 44 CALTs covering 835,165 hectares in the country. These titles were processed between 2002 and 2005.

The CADTs are more expansive because these titles refer to communal properties, forests and waterways that are at times larger than the political boundaries of their host towns.

The CALTs refer to homesteads but processing these smaller titles has been more contentious than the ancestral domain claims.

Baguio CALTs, for example, took years to legitimize because of a provision in the 1997 Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (Ipra) that exempts the summer capital from its coverage, except for land claims already recognized by the DENR and by local courts. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Neda exec says Cordillera dropout rate high despite free education

BAGUIO CITY—ONLY ONE OF THREE STUDENTS in the Cordillera is expected to finish primary education despite efforts by the government to provide free education and eradicate poverty, an official of the National Economic and Development Authority said.

Leon Dacanay, assistant Neda director in Cordillera, said the regional poverty situation projects less than 70 percent of elementary students in the region would finish Grade 6.

High dropout rates have been noted in public elementary schools in the region, he said. "This situation is unique in the region, considering that education is free," he said.

He said the national government has vowed to give children access to education under its commitment to the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

One factor that leads to a high dropout rate among schoolchildren in the region is farm work. Dacanay said some parents ask their children to help till their farms, making the children miss classes.

He said accessibility is another factor because many villages in the Cordillera have bad roads.

In an earlier interview, Benito Tumamao, Department of Education director in the Cordillera, said migration of families looking for better economic opportunities outside the Cordillera is a major factor in the decline of enrollment in public elementary and high schools in the region.

Tumamao said some parents and teachers have cited poverty as the main reason their children quit school. Teachers also noted that some children leave school as they are forced to work to augment their families' income.

Tumamao said the dropout rate in the elementary level in the Cordillera is 7 percent while that in public high schools is 12 to 13 percent.

While the probability of completing primary education is low among the Cordillera youth, Dacanay said they hope they can achieve a 90 percent literacy rate for the region by 2015. *Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

4 Cebu customs execs face probe

By Jolene R. Bulambot
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—AT LEAST FOUR HIGH-RANKING officials of the Bureau of Customs in Cebu face investigation for their alleged involvement in the release of four luxury vehicles forfeited early this year in favor of the government.

Customs District Collector Ricardo Belmonte yesterday said the Enforcement Security Service (ESS) investigation showed that some customs officials and employees conspired to release the forfeited vehicles valued at P2 million by making it appear that the shipment recently arrived from Singapore.

ESS chief Capt. Isidro Estrera, however, refused to divulge the names of those involved since the case is now under the jurisdiction of their head office.

Belmonte said they endorsed the case to Manila to avoid any perception of a whitewash since the case involved their "contemporaries."

The case stemmed from the release on Oct. 11 of two Nissan Terranos, a Celica sports car and a Mitsubishi Pajero Exceed from the custody of the customs bureau.

But ESS and customs officials recovered these vehicles on Oct. 13 in Barangay Soong, Lapu-Lapu City from Jose Oredina, a businessman, who reportedly bought the vehicles for P800,000.

Belmonte said he ordered the transfer of the Customs officials to the administrative division.

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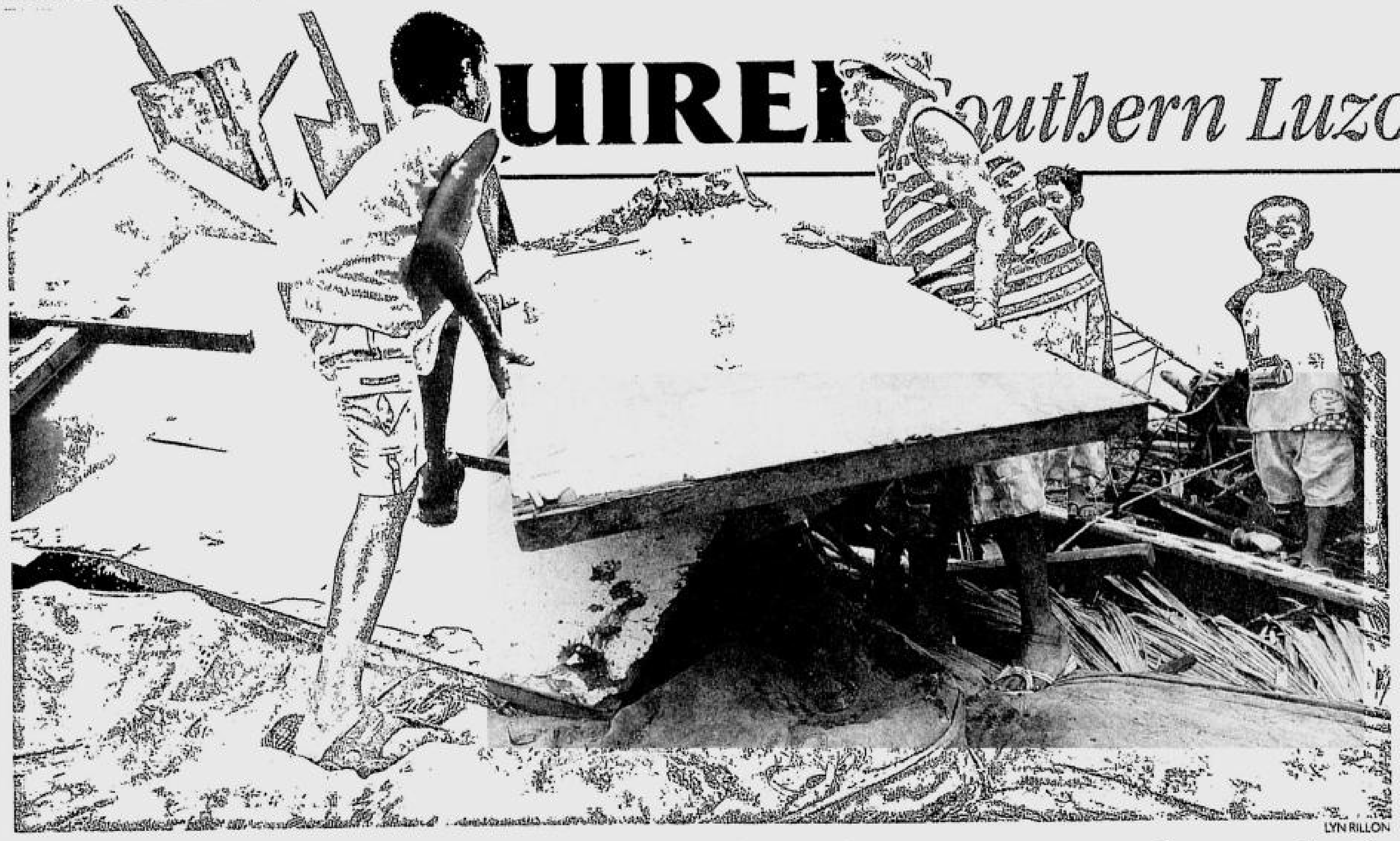

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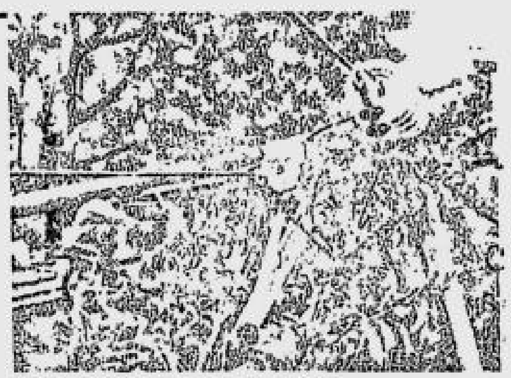
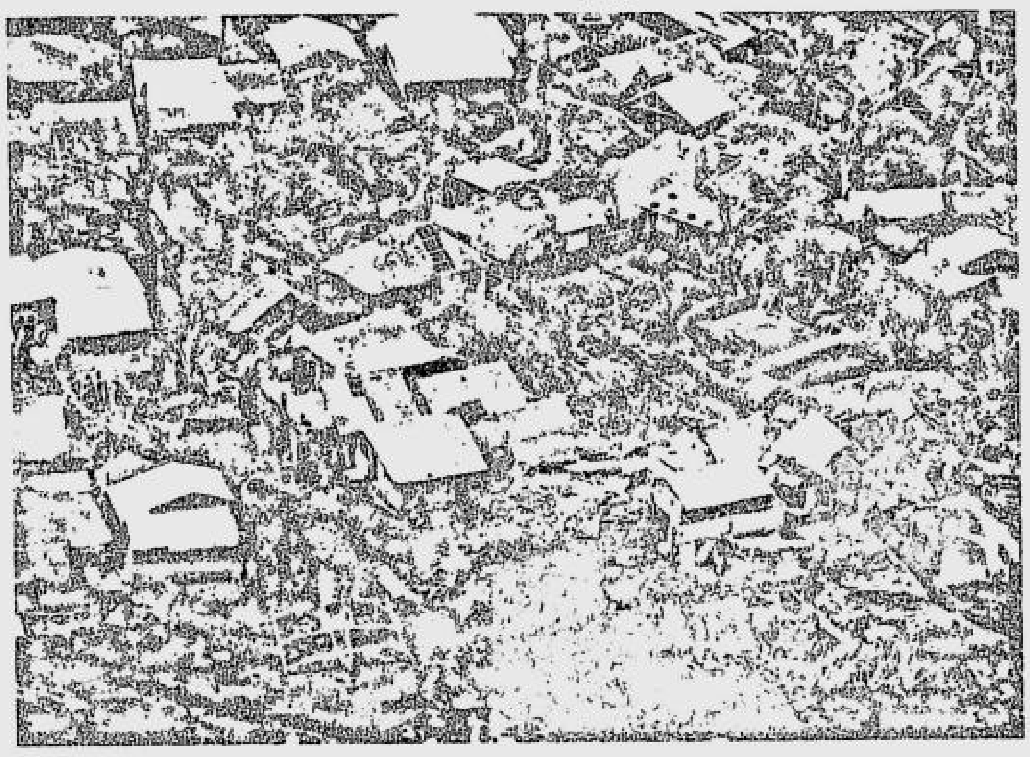


ELECTRIC posts were toppled.

Sorsogon seeks help to rebuild

By Bobby Labalan
Sorsogon City



(TOP) Residents of Barangay Talisay, Pier Area in Sorsogon City retrieve usable materials from their homes leveled by the strong winds of Typhoon "Milenyo." At left, Sorsogon continues to reel from Milenyo's destruction.

PHOTOS BY NINO JESUS ORBETA

INSTEAD OF THE USUAL 30-day festivities showcasing its culture and traditions, Sorsogon province marked its 112th foundation anniversary on Tuesday with austere ceremonies.

It was a nonworking holiday in the province by virtue of Republic Act No. 7380, which declared Sorsogon independent from Albay.

During a thanksgiving Mass he officiated, Msgr. Francisco Monje, who heads the Kasanggayahan Festival committee, said funds for the event would be used to help the schoolchildren instead. The festival is celebrated to mark the province's foundation.

At least 4,000 schoolchildren in the province were affected by Typhoon "Milenyo," the city division office of the Department of Education reported. Milenyo, which struck Sorsogon and neighboring areas, including Metro Manila, last month, was the worst typhoon to have hit the province during the past 30 years.

"Many of these children have stopped going to school since they lost their school supplies and uniforms," Monje said.

The priest appealed to the public, as well as the festival sponsors, for support.

Damage

On Monday, the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council reported that Milenyo brought P561.4 million in damages to agriculture, and P333.6 million to infrastructure. Local government and civil defense officials said total damages amounted to more than P2 billion.

Initially, damage to the entire province was placed at P2.2 billion, including P1.3 billion in housing. Agriculture suffered damage worth P234.2 million; school facilities, P51 million, and infrastructure, P208 million.

Gov. Raul Lee said the government had created a council that would consolidate the rehabilitation plans of various offices and local governments.

Power has been restored to the province as of yesterday, said Sorsogon Electric Cooperative general manager Vicente Sia.

Sorsogon City Mayor Sally Lee, the governor's wife, said a Filipino-American community in Washington led by Nonoy Mendoza, Image Magazine publisher, had responded to her appeals for help.

She aired a similar call in Japan where she was invited by the United Nations-Habitat for Humanity and received assurance of at least P500,000 assistance.

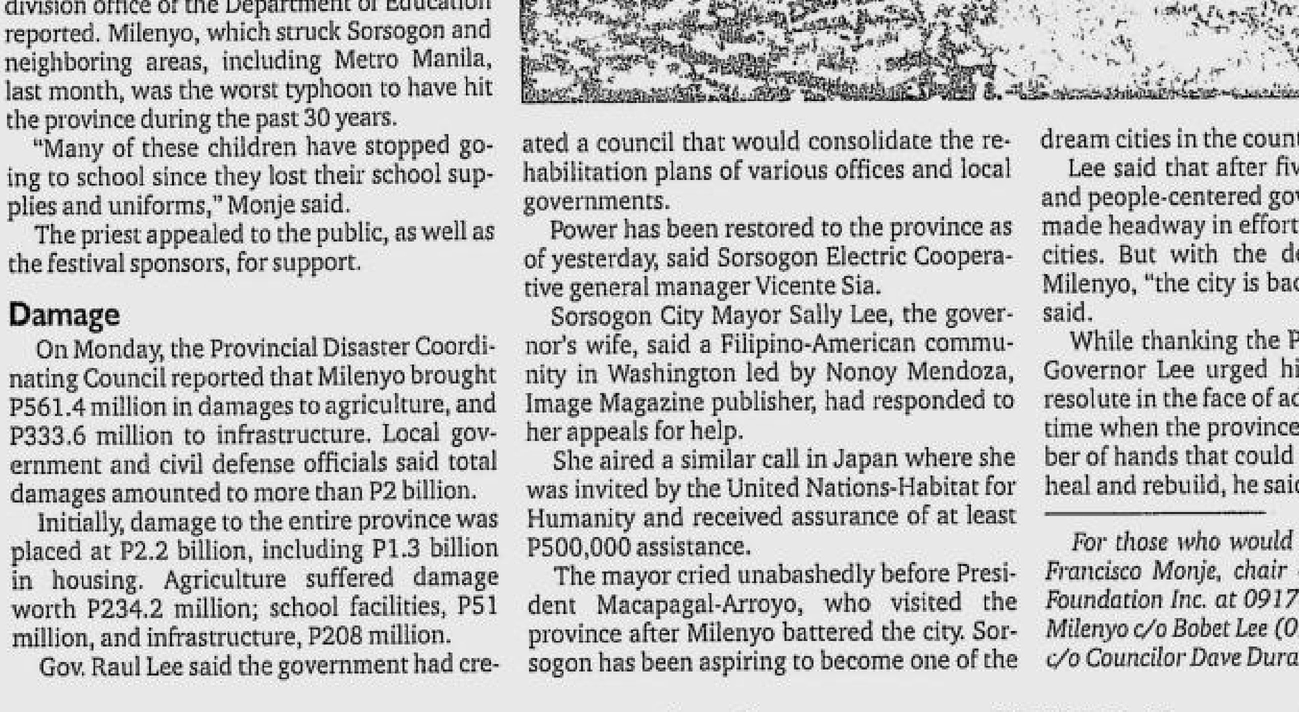
The mayor cried unabashedly before President Macapagal-Arroyo, who visited the province after Milenyo battered the city. Sorsogon has been aspiring to become one of the dream cities in the country.

Lee said that after five years of hard work and people-centered governance, the city had made headway in efforts to be among the top cities. But with the destruction caused by Milenyo, "the city is back to square one," she said.

While thanking the President for her help, Governor Lee urged his constituents to "be resolute in the face of adversity." It is one such time when the province needs the most number of hands that could work together to help heal and rebuild, he said.

For those who would like to help, call Msgr. Francisco Monje, chair of the Kasanggayahan Foundation Inc. at 09178385976 or Task Force Milenyo c/o Bobet Lee (0920-553-8839) or SOS c/o Councilor Dave Duran (0918-637-3831).

More than ₱1B needed for rehabilitation of province



A MAN cuts in section a century-old tree that smashed through the side of the Sorsogon Capitol in Sorsogon City at the height of Typhoon "Milenyo." LYN RILLON

THE PROVINCIAL DISASTER COORDINATING Council (PDCC) of Sorsogon, in its update yesterday, said total damages to agriculture was P653.6 million; infrastructure, P346.8 million; social, P174.4 million; houses, P422.5 million; and health, P16.2 million.

Cost to rehabilitate agriculture is P593.4 million; social, P390.2 million; and infrastructure, P348.9 million, or a total of P1.3 billion, the PDCC added.

Sen. Richard Gordon, national chair of the Philippine National Red Cross, and US Ambassador Kristie A. Kenney will lead the relief goods distribution today, the local Red Cross here said.

At least 1,169 families will receive food and nonfood assistance, said PNRC administrator Salvacion Abotanatin.

PNRC regional director Tess Arguelles said the US government had extended assistance to 5,000 families, majority of them from Sorsogon, and the others for victims in Albay and Quezon.

Abotanatin said PNRC was concentrating on food and nonfood needs for the victims in coordination with the local government unit.

Typhoon victims from Sorsogon City have been herded at the Balogo Sports Complex, where the city government had set up four large tents provided by the United Nations Children's Fund.

Carmen Hubilla of the City Social Welfare Office said 189 families, composed of 1,134 persons, are presently housed at the temporary shelter.

She said the city government was compelled to maintain the temporary shelter since the victims had not reconstructed their houses.

But there is no fund for shelter assistance.

All of them were appealing to the government for shelter assistance so that they could start anew.

Irene Jaramillo, a mother of seven, said her husband had been trying to rebuild their house from salvaged materials but he had fallen ill.

"Three of my children returned there today because they had to attend classes and help their father," she said.

Rita Laguidao of Barangay Tugos said they didn't see any hope of getting back to normal life as long as their house had not been repaired.

Laguidao stressed that the repair was beyond their means, as her income from menial jobs was just enough for their daily needs.

Bobby Q. Labalan

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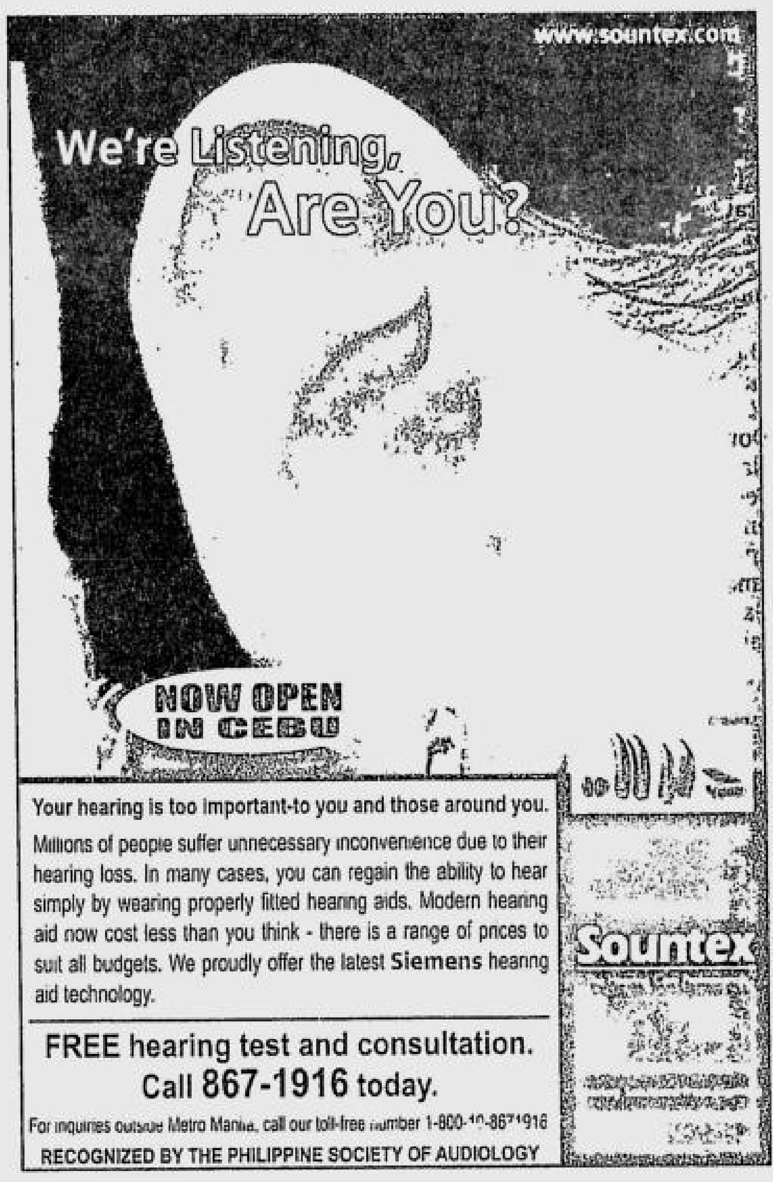

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S.O.S. SORSOGON

One of the most distinguished citizens of Sorsogon, Sorsogon, JOSE MA. A. OLBES contributed P100,000 to the unfortunate victims of "Milenyo." He responded to the appeal of S.O.S. SORSOGON

which has been targeting sympathizers of the storm victims since it hit Sorsogon last September 27. Mr. Olbes, married to Chibi Ortigas, has been living in Spain, but resides now in Makati. Mr. Olbes' check brings up the total money received from sympathizers to P1,262,770.

These include P5,000 from an anonymous lady from Irosin, P10,000 from Holy Garden of Angels and 500 pieces of bath soap from Rudy Aletrejos.

Please keep them coming—Call Ella Duran-Nolasco, 646-9980, Azucena Grajo Uranza, 928-9844 or 313-0810 and Fr. Gerard Deveza at 0918-0998925. Cash or checks may be deposited at any branch of Bank of the Philippine Islands Account number 0011168701.

Barangay families are now being helped by volunteers in Sorsogon under the directions of Fr. Gerard Deveza and Councilor David Duran to rebuild their houses.

Schools are now being assessed by GMA Kapuso Fund and Habitat for Humanities.

Watch this space Monday, Wednesday and Friday for reports on S.O.S. Sorsogon

ADVT

Guimaras folk say they're told to cover up oil

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

NUEVA VALENCIA, GUIMARAS—Residents hired by Petron Corp. to clean the oil sludge from the sunken tanker Solar I said they have been instructed by employees of the oil firm to cover up signs of the oil sludge from the inspection teams and visitors.

"They tell us to cover the oil-stained stones and rocks with sand when there are visitors coming," a 54-year-old resident of Barangay Tando told the INQUIRER. He asked not to be identified for fear of losing his work in the clean-up operations.

However, Petron spokesperson Carlos Tan denied the allegations.

"I don't know where this is coming from. It makes no sense for us to do that because if anyone would say that there's still bunker fuel in a particular area, we would be forced to return and clean it again," Tan told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

He said even if they have declared an area cleared of oil debris, the government's multiagency inspection teams would give the final assessment.

The resident said the instructions came from Petron employees acting as team leaders in the clean up groups and are in charge of disbursing the payroll.

Nueva Valencia Mayor Diosdado Gonzaga and Julian Amador, environment regional director, said they have received similar information from residents in the area.

The two officials said they have asked Petron to investigate the reports.

Another Tando resident, 32-year-old Maricon Cagayan, said the bunker fuel is still in many areas and could be found a few inches under the sand in the shoreline.

A Petron Project Ligtas Guimaras report dated Oct. 15 said the cleanup is completed in 15 areas in Sibunag and Nueva Valencia towns.

The National Disaster Coordinating Council also declared complete the physical cleanup of areas in Guimaras hit by the oil spill. It said they are now in the rehabilitation phase.

But residents and officials have belied the assessment.

"If you ask the residents, they will tell you the truth: there is still a need for more cleanup," Gonzaga told the INQUIRER. He said the cleanup operations of the oil firm covered only the populated areas.

The residents of Tando have also complained about the reduction of the number of residents being hired in the cleanup.

In a two-page letter dated Oct. 14, barangay officials, led by Barangay Capt. Olivia Evangelista, said only a few of the residents worked on the clean up from Wednesday to Saturday last week.

Petron personnel were quoted as telling residents the work force was reduced because the cleanup operations are already complete and the work is now focused on the collection and transport of sacks of contaminated debris.

Tan said it was logical for Petron to reduce the workforce because the work was "winding down."

He said the residents involved in the clean up would be provided with an alternative source of livelihood, which will be implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

A CHILD stands by a bamboo fence that separates his family's farm from others in the village of Guiwanon in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras as the Petron oil spill changed many villagers' livelihood from fishing to cleaning up the oil sludge.
ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

2 Czech experts in town to help clean up spill

By Hazel P. Villa and Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—TWO CZECHOSLOVAKIAN experts on bioremediation arrived in Guimaras on Oct. 16 to help in the ongoing cleanup of the Aug. 11 Petron oil spill.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources regional office said the experts, Jakub Kanta and Petra Zackova from the Czech Republic, have extensive experience dealing with bioremediation of soil and water contaminated with hydrocarbons in various European and Asian countries.

The DENR defines bioremediation as any process that uses microorganisms, such as bacteria, to return the environment altered by contaminants to its original condition.

Julian Amador, DENR regional executive director, said the experts would be in Guimaras until Oct 21 to evaluate the situation and identify areas where bioremediation will be implemented.

The experts conducted a two-day technical orientation for DENR personnel this week.

Amador said they plan to introduce indigenous bacteria with the help of scientists from the University of the Philippines in the Visayas and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (Seafdec).

The bacteria will be tested for a month before they are introduce to the affected areas, Amador said.

The use of bioremediation was one of the options in the cleanup of the shoreline identified by scientists.

The DENR cited the need to get experts to help in the bioremediation process although the University of the Philippines is in the process of identifying the appropriate strain of microorganism that would be used.

Dr. Gilda Po, chief senior aquaculture specialist of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), has already isolated oil-decomposing bacteria from the oil-affected sites of Guimaras.

"We are drawing plans," said Dr. Rex Sadaba, mangrove scientist and coordinator of the UPV research group.

DENR exec points to Palace as Sierra Madre logging backer

LUCENA CITY—THE TOP OFFICIAL of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Southern Tagalog defended Malacañang's reinstatement of the controversial government forest management contract covering 34,660 hectares of land in the Sierra Madre mountain ranges.

Antonio Principe, DENR-Calabarzon regional director, corrected reports that the Timberland Forest Products Inc. (TFPI), owned by Bulacan-based logger Wilson Ng, did not have the financial capability to undertake the multimillion-peso reforestation project as defined in its Integrated Forest Management Agreement (Ifma).

Principe told the provincial council that TFPI's authorized capital, as reflected in its registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission, was only P1 million, with a paid-up capital of only P250,000.

"But in addition to that, Timberland submitted documents of properties in Bulacan worth P40 million to serve as collateral. This was accepted by the Office of the President," he said.

Principe also noted that TFPI's original application covers a total of 37,000 hectares of forest land.

"But when it was found ... that the application would also occupy an estimated 3,000 hectares with ancestral domain claim, the said portion was excluded," he said.

Principe also cited documents from concerned local government and barangay units allegedly supporting TFPI's forest contract application.

He, however, made it clear that despite Malacañang's reinstatement of TFPI's forest management agreement, the DENR has yet to allow the company to start operating, citing the lack of required documents.

When pressed about his position on the controversial forest management project, Principe replied: "For me, I will no longer allow it, but that's only my personal opinion."

TFPI's Ifma has long been opposed by residents and local officials of Real, Infanta and General Nakar towns.

Quezon board members have criticized Malacañang's basis for reinstating the controversial forest management project. *Delfin Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Gov't data don't show real poverty picture, say execs

BAGUIO CITY—THE GOVERNMENT's poverty statistics do not reflect the face of indigenous Filipinos, so it has started drafting new economic indicators that would help them find and assist the poor among them, according to a Malacañang official.

Thomas Killip, presidential assistant for Cordillera affairs, said the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples are drafting these guidelines that will measure what resources the IP poor can have access to.

Killip, a former mayor of Sagada, Mt. Province, said complete data about indigenous Filipinos should help government understand a constituency that has thrived below its radar for nearly a century.

Leilene Carantes-Gallardo, NCIP Cordillera director, said the new poverty indicators they are crafting respond to the "inadequate tools" the government uses to measure poverty.

Real score

She said the latest government economic report had failed to capture the true situation of indigenous Filipinos.

The Cordillera, which is home to various IP groups, showed significant improvement because it managed to reduce its poor families from 122,942 households in 1994 to 72,084 households in 2003, said Juan Ngalob, Cordillera director of the National Economic and Development Authority, at a Monday forum at the University of the Philippines Baguio.

But the general outlines of economic growth that the government has recorded, based on what Cordillerans consume and what they earn in a year, have failed to illustrate why indigenous Filipinos remain poor, Gallardo said.

Ancestral lands

"We develop indicators that would tell us if indigenous Filipinos have access to their ancestral lands. Do they exploit their own resources? Are they able to access education? And if they do, are they able to cope?" she said.

Gallardo cited Ifugao, judged as the fourth poorest province in the country, until revisions this year in the statistic methods removed it from the top five poorest provinces.

"The country judged Ifugao poor, but their own people found this puzzling because nobody was starving in the province. They planted and consumed their own food," she said.

New rules

She said NCIP is also devising new rules that would help government safeguard its tangible and intangible heritage, such as local medicinal knowledge that can be taught in schools.

Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, chair of the UN Forum, has been pursuing research on how indigenous Cordillera knowledge can help improve the [illegible] literacy.

AN AETA sleeps beside a chick in a street in the City of San Fernando, one of dozens roaming urban areas for alms.
TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

Corpuz also heads the Baguio-based Tebtebba Foundation, a research facility that has advocated the use of indigenous language and cultural [illegible] rooms.

Gallardo said the guidelines are primarily new rules that apply to indigenous Filipinos, who may not understand the applicability of modern laws, cultural [illegible] lives.

The new data could also provide better ways to introduce health benefits to these communities. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Water firm's woes over soon, says agency

THE LOCAL WATER UTILITIES Administration (LWUA) yesterday assured the public that the management team it had assigned to take over the Metro Roxas Water District (MRWD) was performing well to ensure fiscal policies and reforms are institutionalized and that potable water was available to the city 24 hours.

Lorenzo Jamora, LWUA administrator and acting board chair, made the assurance to belie reports that the MRWD is in the verge of collapse.

"On the contrary, the interim board of directors and management have made substantial progress in addressing the issues at hand and at the same time improve the financial status and operational system of the Metro Roxas Water District," Jamora said in a press statement.

Jamora said the issues raised in the reports were actually the reasons that prompted the old MRWD board of directors to request for a full LWUA takeover.

Pablo Bercilla, MRWD interim general manager, told Jamora that contrary to reports that 75 percent of the water district's 202 employees signed the petition letter sent to the Office of the President, only 42 actually affixed their signatures. Two were found to be not MRWD employees.

Bercilla also reported that operations of the MRWD and implementation of ongoing projects are proceeding smoothly.

"The news reports are nothing but part of a misinformation campaign periodically launched by disgruntled parties," he added.

Jamora also explained that LWUA, under its charter, has the authority to fully or partially take over the management of any water district to protect national government investment and public interest.

Jamora said the agency has formed a fact-finding team to validate the findings of the Commission on Audit on alleged irregular transactions of the previous board and management.

The Office of the President has been informed that the result of its investigation will be furnished the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission.

Cabinet changes: Yap back to old post at DA

From page A1

latory Board (LTFRB).

Bautista was promoted to undersecretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications.

She was replaced at LTFRB by Thompson Lantion, who previously served as a DOTC consultant.

As DOTC undersecretary, Bautista is expected to oversee major maritime units, such as the Marina (Maritime Industry Authority) and the Coast Guard, according to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, who said Bautista told her about her new position last week.

Other new appointments

Ermita announced other new assignments:

- Benedicto Bitonio, who heads the National Labor Relations Commission, is now Senior Vice President of the Development Bank of the Philippines.
- Replacing Bitonio is Gerardo Nograles, who used to be NLRC commissioner of the fourth division.
- Land Transportation Office chair Anneli Lontoc was also assigned as undersecretary of the DOTC.
- Named acting DOTC assistant secretaries were Cesar Sarmiento and Elmer Soneja, who were previously DOTC director of the Legal Affairs Service and DOTC director of the Project Management Service, respectively.

Ermita also announced the appointments of temporary members of the Pasay City Council. These were Johnny Santiago, Reynaldo Mateo, Mary Grace Bustonera-Santos, Emilio Arturo Langomez, Regulus Mary Lim and Erlinda San Jose Hilario.

Panganiban himself said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye had informed him by phone of his appointment to the NAPC earlier yesterday.

HELLO AGAIN: In June 2005, Arthur Yap said goodbye during a press conference. He was quitting due to the tax evasion charges filed against him and his family. PDI PHOTO

A former student of the President at the Ateneo de Manila University, Yap is expected to concurrently retain his post as head of the North Luzon "super region," the sources said.

'I did my share'

Remonde was appointed to the NAPC only a few months ago. Before then, he headed the Government Mass Media Group which Malacañang sources said would be abolished by the President.

Panganiban was Ms Arroyo's fourth appointee as agriculture secretary (after Leonardo Montemayor, Luis "Cito" Lorenzo and Yap) since she became President in 2001.

"I have done my share in helping the administration. But if my best is not good enough, there is nothing we can do about it," he said.

Panganiban said that in recent conversations with Ermita, he had an inkling that changes in the Cabinet may be in the offing.

But he expressed surprise at the swiftness of the changes.

The sources in Malacañang said Ms Arroyo had gotten fed up with the Commission on Appointments' repeated bypassing of Panganiban, purportedly through the efforts of opposition lawmakers.

But she still fancies Panganiban enough to move him to the NAPC while continuing to look for other government posts where she can use his talents, they said.

Long relationship

The sources said Ms Arroyo had yielded to calls from various farm sectors that wanted Yap back in view of their long relationship with him starting from his stewardship of the National Food Authority in 2001.

The agriculture sector, which includes rich, corn and coconuts as well as fisheries and livestock, accounts for around 20 percent of the Philippines' gross domestic product.

It is one of the top priorities of the Arroyo administration's medium-term development program, specifically in northern Luzon where billions of pesos are being spent to build roads and bridges in order to improve access to farms. *With report from Reuters*

WHAT WENT BEFORE

ARTHUR YAP WAS FIRST APPOINTED agriculture secretary on July 9, 2004. He left his post as chair of the National Food Authority and replaced Luis "Cito" Lorenzo.

In June 2005, Yap and his father, Domingo Yap, were slapped with tax evasion charges by the Bureau of Internal Revenue for alleged failure to pay P4 million in taxes in connection with the purchase of a property in Pasig City in 1997.

According to the BIR, father and son, both officers of the family-owned DHY Realty & Development Inc., undervalued the property to evade paying the correct documentary-stamp and withholding taxes, and ended up paying only P18,750 in taxes.

Yap was the first and highest government official to be charged with tax evasion since the Department of Finance and the BIR started the Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) program in March 2005.

On June 20, 2005, State Prosecutor Sebastian Caponong issued subpoenas to the Yaps, ordering them to appear before the Department of Justice on July 5 and 7 for a preliminary investigation of the case.

On June 30, Yap resigned from his post at the Department of Agriculture. "To stay on while this case is pending is a no-win situation for myself and the President I serve," he said.

Charges dismissed

On Oct. 12, despite what was touted to be among the strongest cases ever filed under the RATE program, the DOJ dismissed the charges against the Yaps.

State prosecutors said the BIR had failed to present sufficient evidence to merit the filing of a formal tax evasion case.

Cleared of the tax evasion charge, Yap was reappointed to the Cabinet in December, this time as President Macapagal-Arroyo's adviser on job creation.

But his comeback elicited calls for him to address allegations of rice smuggling and involvement in the fertilizer fund scam—to the purported tune of P450 million—when he was chief of the NFA.

For all that, however, Yap was appointed chief of the Presidential Management Staff in May 2006. *Mel Lawrence de Guzman, Inquirer Research*

SC chief admits pressure on people's initiative case

From page A1

The Supreme Court did not uphold Malacañang's position on these cases.

Comelec dismissed petition

The Charter change groups had asked the Comelec to authenticate the millions of signatures they said they had gathered petitioning for a shift from the bicameral-presidential to the unicameral-parliamentary system.

They also asked the poll body to schedule a plebiscite on the constitutional changes that would allow President Macapagal-Arroyo to stay in power at least up to 2010.

But the Comelec said it had no authority to take cognizance of any petition for a people's initiative until a law had been passed by Congress implementing the people's initiative system.

The poll body said the petitioners' attempt to overrule the so-called Santiago precedent had no legal basis and that the proposed constitutional changes involved a revision of the Constitution rather than mere amendments.

That revision "cannot be achieved through a people's initiative," the Comelec said.

The Santiago precedent refers to the 1997 ruling of the Supreme Court in Santiago vs Comelec that states that Republic Act No. 6735, the law regulating the people's right of initiative, is inadequate to cover the system of initiative on amendments to the Constitution.

After the Comelec dismissed their petition on Aug. 31, Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) went to the Supreme Court. Ulap is composed of governors, mayors and other local officials,

Special session

Interviewed at the Global Forum on Liberty and Prosperity, attended by foreign magistrates who included Canadian Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin, Panganiban said the Supreme Court had scheduled a special session on the matter next week.

"We'll discuss this on the 25th, and then Thursday, and then Friday, and then Saturday, Sunday until we can come out with a decision," Panganiban said. The Supreme Court is going on recess from Oct. 30 to Nov. 10.

Proponents of Charter change told the tribunal that they had complied with the requirements of the law on people's initiative.

In a 97-page pleading, Sigaw ng Bayan and Ulap said they met the constitutional requirement that the signatures they collected should be at least 3 percent of the total number of registered voters per congressional district.

Opponents said many of the signatures were collected under false pretenses or in exchange for cash and "goodies."

OneVoice is questioning the certification of verification issued by election officers nationwide who attested to the substantial compliance by Sigaw and Ulap with the 3-percentage requirement.

'Glaring defect'

The Senate is also against the initiative. "The alleged initiative has been manipulated by the administration," it said.

"A glaring defect of the proposal for a people's initiative in the absence of an enabling law to govern the process is fraught with many dangers that tend to subvert, rather than find a distinct avenue for the expression of the true will of the people," the Senate said.

It also pointed out that the petition sought a rewriting of the entire Constitution, which is not within the scope of a people's initiative.

Senators have described a proposed transitory provision as a sweetener to incumbent legislators. The provision says that until the election of a regular parliament, there shall be an interim parliament that would be composed of "the incumbent members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, and the incumbent members of the Cabinet who are heads of executive departments."

Justices' doubts

During the Sept. 26 oral arguments before the high court, several justices openly attacked the Cha-cha initiative and voiced doubts on the integrity of the signatures gathered by Charter change groups, their source of funding and the role of the local governments in the initiative.

The justices also raised concern about the supposed plan of the proposed parliament to clip the power of the judiciary by doing away with the court's "extraordinary certiorari" power—the power to review the acts of the executive and legislative branches of government.

Among the justices, Associate Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez was the most passionate in her line of questioning that generally showed distrust in the people's initiative.

"Will you entrust the fate of our country, the Filipino people in the hands of 6.3 million voters who you and I do not know?" Gutierrez had told Solicitor General Antonio Eduardo Nachura after he admitted to having not examined the names of the signatories.

Gutierrez had also questioned whether those who affixed their signatures on the petition understood what they had signed "or whether their signatures are genuine."

"I have six relatives in Batangas who were asked to sign what they did not know about ... Well, this process is very doubtful, then if you do not believe me, then that's your problem," she said.

Senate plans to probe PCGG's 20-year record

From page A1

Nario said, however, that he and his colleagues would study the possibility of seeking the high court's reconsideration.

"We will review the case with the Office of the Solicitor General (Antonio Eduardo Nachura). He is our lawyer. If there are grounds for filing a motion for reconsideration, we will. The high court is the arbiter of the law," said Nario, a former Sandiganbayan justice.

Abcede said the PCGG would avail itself of the 15-day period to file a motion. He said he was confident that the Senate would not order their arrest or compel them to appear at any inquiry before the lapse of the period.

'No other recourse'

In Malacañang, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said there was "no other recourse" but for the PCGG officials to appear at the Senate inquiry if summoned.

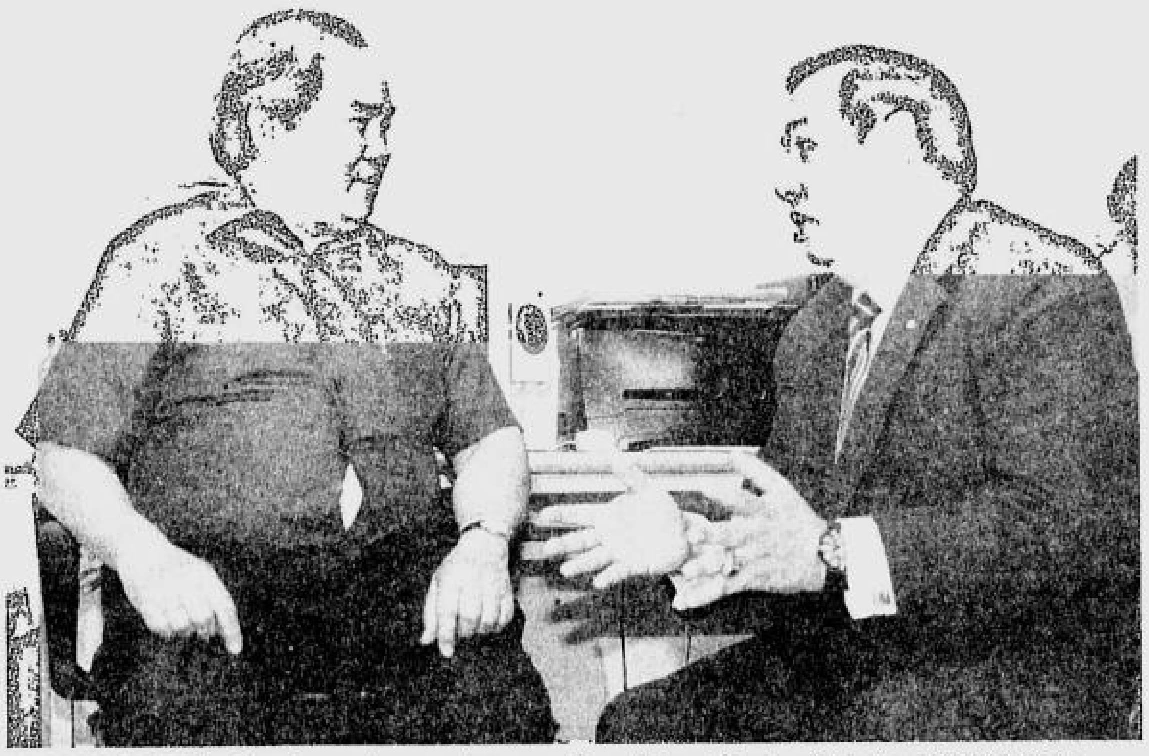
But he maintained that the Palace had never barred the PCGG from testifying.

"The Palace did not restrain the PCGG. We just let [it] handle the situation because it invoked Executive Order No. 1," Ermita said at a news briefing.

He added: "Since we had the confidence in the PCGG to invoke that, we just let the case be.

"But now that the court has decided, there is no other recourse but to abide by the decision, meaning [for them] to submit themselves to the Senate investigation."

Voting 15-0 on Tuesday, the Supreme Court upheld the power of the Senate to subpoena Sabio et al., as well as executives of Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat), to testify at the inquiry into the purported looting of the sequestered firm's assets.



SECOND ROUND of confrontation seen between Sen. Richard Gordon (right) and PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio. INQUIRER PHOTO

According to the tribunal, granting the PCGG "immunity" from legislative inquiry—"institutionalizes irresponsibility and nonaccountability."

It ruled that EO No. 1—the law that created the PCGG in 1986 to go after the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcos family and their cronies, and which provided that PCGG officials were exempt for any legislative probe—was repealed by the 1987 Constitution.

PCGG report card

Gordon, chair of the Senate committee on government corporations, said the inquiry would go beyond the issue involving Philcomsat to every sequestered company that the PCGG had handled since 1986.

"Everybody knows that the PCGG has been here for the last 20 years, and it's time [the commission members] showed their report card to the public in the interest of transparency," Gordon said at a press conference.

"I would like them now to expound on every company that they have taken over and make their report—where they made money for the government and where they lost money, and perhaps, in the process, who made money for themselves," he said.

He also said the scrutiny of the PCGG's 20-year performance would be the basis for the Senate recommendation on whether the commission should be abolished.

Both Gordon and Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. have filed bills seeking the PCGG's abolition, saying it had bungled the job of recovering ill-gotten wealth.

Gordon said the PCGG should be closely scrutinized because of the losses reported in Philcomsat and other crony corporations, including the use of assets to buy cars and pay the commissioners hefty allowances.

Entry point

"Philcomsat is the entry point for finding out whether the PCGG has been doing its job. Philcomsat mirrors the kind of performance the PCGG has been doing in a particular company," Gordon said.

He said the PCGG should report not only to President Macapagal-Arroyo but also to Congress and the people.

Sabio and his commissioners were ordered arrested by the Senate last month for repeatedly ignoring summonses to testify at the Senate inquiry.

The PCGG chair was arrested at his office; Nario, Abcede and Conti went into hiding.

In response to a motion filed by the PCGG to stop the Senate probe, the Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order and lifted the arrest warrants on the PCGG officials.

Eager beavers

After the Supreme Court handed down its decision on Tuesday, Gordon initially wanted to have a hearing tomorrow.

But Gordon later said he and Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile had agreed that it would be too soon and would show them to be eager beavers.

He said the inquiry would resume in November to give the commissioners enough time.

Enrile has been pursuing the investigation of Philcomsat, where his daughter is a stockholder. He is the subject of a complaint lodged by former Sen. Rene Saguisag at the Senate ethics committee, for purported impropriety and conflict of interest in actively participating in the case.

Gordon said the tribunal's 15-0 decision was "a very, very loud message."

"And hopefully, there will be some humility and some expressions of cooperation if [the PCGG officials] have nothing to hide. We're not there to run after them. We're there to find out whether the PCGG has outlived its usefulness, or put provisions that will make them effective," he said, adding:

Protection

"But they have taken a very antagonistic position, and that's why they have gotten into this scenario."

Abcede said, however, that any Senate inquiry should be governed by "rules" in order "to protect those attending."

He said there were "still a lot of issues" that needed to be addressed, "specifically rules governing legislative investigations" and rules on conflict of interest, "as in the case of Senator Enrile."

Nevertheless, both Abcede and Nario said they respected the high court's decision and would attend any Senate hearing on the case if they were called.

"I, for one, have nothing to hide," Nario said.

"We are confident that the Senate will practice the highest form of statesmanship," Abcede said.

In a statement, Conti said: "I have always been an advocate of transparency and accountability. The Supreme Court decision ordering us to testify before the Senate is a golden opportunity for me to clarify my non-involvement in any of the alleged dissipations [that] happened long before my appointment as PCGG commissioner." *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

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SPORTS

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Express score upset; Tigers roar

GAMES TOMORROW (Ynares Center)
4:35 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Coca-Cola
7:30 p.m.—San Miguel vs Alaska

By Musong Castillo

THERE WAS VERY LITTLE SCIENCE IN the way Air21 played last night, just a good, old-fashioned running game that brought a heavyweight in Talk 'N Text gasping to its knees.

The Express pounded the floor all night and ran until the Phone Pals couldn't keep up anymore for a 127-110 win in the PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

"You're right, there was no science there," said coach Bo Perasol, who explained the winning formula in its simplest form. "We knew that they (Phone Pals) are a good running team that we just had to play above and beyond their level."

It was the first win in four outings for the determined Express, one which came after they had dropped three straight heartbreakers which would have made teams of lesser character just roll over and die.

"I told them that it is not about just playing good, no matter what happens," Perasol went on. "When we lost to Ginebra (by a point), my players celebrated. I told them to believe that we are doing something right."

Ranidel de Ocampo and Gary David chalked up career-highs in scoring with 33 and 30, respectively, and the orchestrator of that running game, Wynne Arboleda, finished with a career-best 18 assists, the most by anyone in the league in the last two years.

And unlike in their last two setbacks, the Express stuck close, and even led, in the early goings, before turning the heat several notches up when their foes simply could not keep up anymore.

Asi Taulava did lead the Phone Pals with 21 points and 18 rebounds, but the interior Air21 defense pummeled him no end, practically making him bleed for his contribution.

Meanwhile, Coca-Cola tripped defending champion Purefoods, 92-77, in the first game, the Tigers second straight win. The Chunkee Giants fell to 1-3.

From a 60-all halftime count, the Express answered the third quarter horn with all guns cocked and firing, as David scored seven and Ronald Tubid 10 in the period to keep them in control.

The Scores:

First Game

COCA-COLA 92—Peek 19, Salangsang 16, Misolas 14, Yeo 13, Pacana 8, Miranda 8, Arigo 8, Gavino 2, Caceres 2, Raneses 2, Ferreria 0, Antonio 0.

PUREFOODS 77—Artadi 18, Raymundo 15, Simon 14, Yap, J. 10, Pingris 7, Yee 4, Castillo 4, Bautista 3, Yap, R. 2, Evangelista 0.

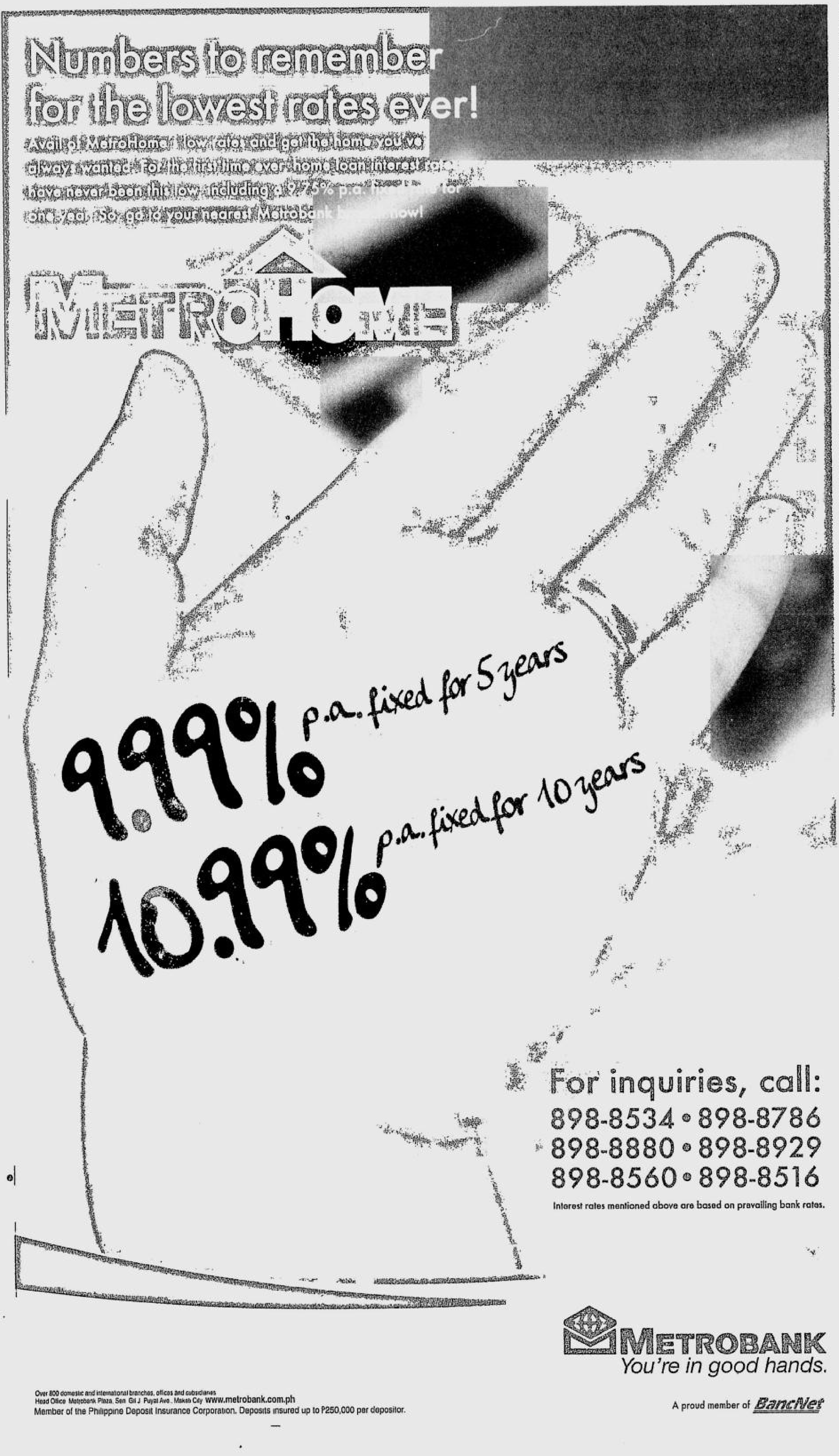
Quarters: 19-all, 41-38, 62-53, 92-77.

Second Game

AIR21 127—De Ocampo, R. 33, David 30, De Ocampo, Y. 13, Santos 12, Tubid 10, Telan 9, Arboleda 9, Avenido 7, Se 4, Sotto 0, Dimaunahan 0

TALK 'N TEXT 110—Taulava 21, Allado 18, Ritualo 15, Alapag 13, Carey 12, Cardona 8, Belano 8, Pablo 6, Washington 5, Andaya 4, Fran 0.

Quarters: 29-26, 60-all, 91-85, 127-110.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Late Sports

More stories on A27-A31

MANNY Pacquiao, his trainer believes, won't allow Erik Morales to go the distance.

'We'll get Erik before the sixth'

AS FAR AS FREDDIE ROACH IS CONCERNED, Erik Morales is going down no later than the halfway point of his match against Filipino ring icon Manny Pacquiao.

"We'll get him before the sixth round," Roach told television network ABS-CBN last night.

That has been the American trainer's stand since Day One of Pacquiao's preparations for the third installment of his rivalry against the Meixan sensation, nicknamed "El Terrible."

Last night, though, Roach sounded confident, anchoring his view perhaps on the progress Pacquiao has shown in training.

Pacquiao appeared on television looking trim and fit.

However, the General Santos native told the station's interviewer that he was going for a win in whatever way possible.

"I'm not really going for a knockout," Pacquiao said in Filipino. "But if it will come, it will be a big bonus."

Roach, however, said Morales is going to feel the sting of Pacquiao's punches anew.

"Once he gets hit, he'll start having flashbacks," said Roach.

The American was referring to the second match between the two superstar prizefighters.

Pacquiao won that bout by knocking out Morales for the first time in the Mexican's illustrious career.

Francis Ochoa

Asiad torch relay on

TRAVELING through 15 countries in the Asian region, the flame of the 15th Asian Games will hit the roads of Metro Manila today. A total of 125 runners composed of sports personalities, government officials and international delegates from the Doha Asian Games Organizing Committee will take part in the torch relay which will culminate at the opening of the Asiad on Dec. 1 in Doha, Qatar. Philippine Olympic Committee Jose "Peping" Cojuangco will kick off the relay at the Rizal Park by lighting the Asian Games torch, which traveled all the way from Qatar.

June Navarro

plus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) **E-mail:** pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Liz sues Willie for abuse

TV host's wife says she's had enough

**By DJ Yap
and Bayani San Diego Jr.**

IT SEEMS THAT WILLIE REVILLAME's legal and marital woes are far from over.

Just days after his wife Floralice "Liz" Almoro had sought the annulment of their marriage, the popular host of ABS-CBN's noontime show, "Wowowee," was accused of displaying violent behavior toward Almoro and their son.

The criminal complaint was filed by Almoro, 29, on Tuesday at the Quezon City prosecutor's office.

In her complaint, she charged Revillame, 45, with violating Republic Act 9262—the law protecting women and children from violence—for allegedly threatening to hurt her and their son during one of their fights.

According to her, the incident occurred around midnight of Aug. 6 inside their house at 15 Luna St., Ayala Heights Village, Old Balara in Quezon City.

Unexpected behavior

Almoro said she was just asking Revillame what was wrong when he started hurling invectives at her and throwing his arms, hitting their baby, who had been sleeping in the playpen.

The child woke up and started crying, prompting Almoro to pick him up, but Revillame allegedly grabbed the baby and pushed her aside. "While holding the child on one arm, his other arm lifted the playpen and threw it away ... I was crying and begging him to give back the baby to me," Almoro said.

When she approached Revillame, the latter allegedly picked up a lamp and told her, "If you don't stop, you'll get hurt." Almoro said Revillame later calmed down and gave her back the baby. The TV host then packed his bags and left the house, she added.

May incident

She cited other instances in which Revillame allegedly showed his violent side, including one incident in May in which he had thrown a chair in her direction, but it was blocked by Revillame's mother.

In another incident, he allegedly threw a remote control on the bed, nearly hitting their baby, Almoro said.

According to Almoro, her husband's violent behavior started in November 2005 after she had given birth.

'It's too much'

She added that it took her a long time to file a complaint because she wanted to keep her family together. "But now I doubt if we can still save the marriage. It's too much. I can no longer take what he did," she said in her complaint.

On Oct. 5, Almoro had filed for annulment at a Quezon City court which issued a gag order preventing media from talking about the case.

Meanwhile, lawyer Raymond Fortun told the INQUIRER yesterday that he is now part of Revillame's legal team which also includes Armando Marcelo and Dexter Lacuanan.

The right time

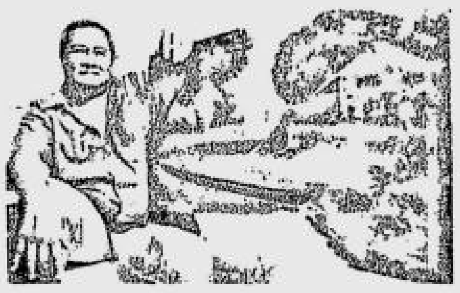
His recruitment "came at the right time," he said, because it was formalized yesterday, a day after a "criminal case for child abuse" was filed by Almoro against his client.

Fortun confirmed that the criminal case involved "the alleged commission of certain acts

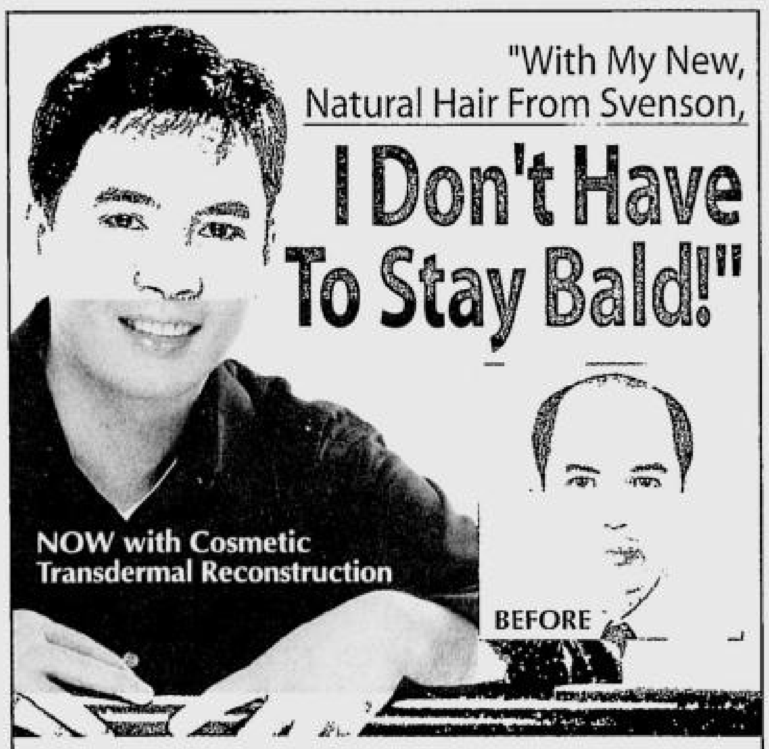
LIZ SUES/ A24

FLORALICE "Liz" Almoro said in her complaint that it took some time before she finally decided to file a complaint against her husband, Willie Revillame, because she wanted to save their marriage.

WHAT'S INSIDE



- **An Amorsolo emerges** from his grandfather's shadow /A24
- **Explosives found inside truck** in Western Bicutan, Taguig City /A23
- **NBI seizes** P5 million worth of fake P5, P10 coins /A23
- **Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco** not worried he would be suspended like Makati's Binay /A23



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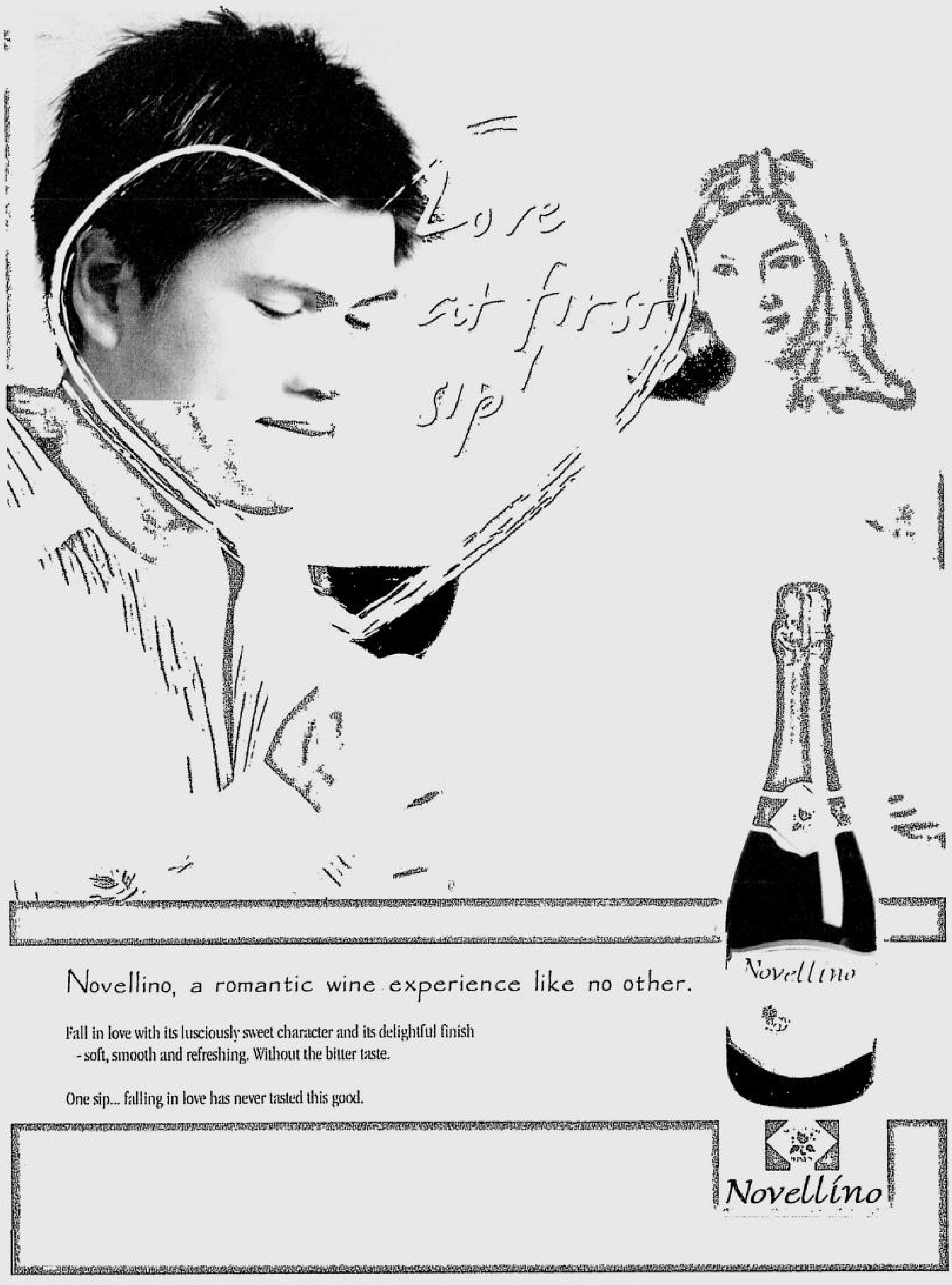

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Novellino

The 59th Annual Convention of the Institute of Internal Auditors Philippines

"The Internal Audit Challenge: Creating Value, Enhancing Quality"

October 19 – 21, 2006 Waterfront Insular Hotel, Davao City

Greetings to the officers and members of the **Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA-P)** as you hold your *59th Annual Convention.*

Your theme, *"The Internal Audit Challenge: Creating Value, Enhancing Quality,"* shows your commitment to adopt new trends and face the challenges of the times so that you can perform your functions more efficiently

I laud your association particularly for your efforts in promoting the welfare of the internal auditors all over the country and for providing your clients with quality service.

This gathering is an opportunity for you to exchange ideas regarding issues confronting the internal audit profession today, share insights on international trends and learn new approaches in auditing. Strive for continuing relevance.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

Madayaw!

In behalf of the City Government of Davao, I would like to congratulate the Institute of Internal Auditors on the occasion of your 59th National Convention of Internal Auditors.

This years theme: "The IA Challenge: Creating Value, Enhancing Quality," is indeed apt as it focuses on how we can realize the full potential of this industry without it taking its toll on the quality of service you provide.

This is a significant event as it will be able our auditors to keep up with the changes and innovations of your profession to be better and more competitive in the industry.

It is through conventions like this, that we can continue to maintain the quality and level of professionalism expected from our peers, more especially now as Davao City is the recognized gateway of the region for business and tourism for the region.

In behalf of the City Government of Davao, I again extend my warmest welcome to the guests and participants to this important occasion.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

RODRIGO R. DUTERTE
City Mayor

Today, high performance companies need not work harder, but have to choose to work on the right things. And one thing that is right and that is basic in the minds of their leaders is governance. Since internal auditing is recognized as one of the cornerstone of strong governance, the increasing expectations within the business environment undoubtedly challenged internal auditors. It is for this reason that we hold this 59th annual convention of the Institute of Internal Auditors Philippines with this in mind.

The challenge of internal audit today is "Creating Value, Enhancing Quality". In every company, there are high impact areas that we in the internal audit can create value and become strategic. Quality in the practice of internal auditing as measured by internal and external assessments is our way of conveying to our stakeholders that internal auditors likewise are subject to audit.

Fellow internal auditors, let this gathering be the forum for taking stock and determining what's best for us. Let us keep pace with the rest of our colleagues in other countries. Let us keep on learning and let us keep on adding value to our roles in our respective areas of work. This is the best time to take up the challenge. Let us make the most of it.

On behalf of the 2006 Board of Directors, let me thank all participating members of IIA Philippines, the board and officers of IIA Davao Chapter, the convention sponsors and other partners, who contributed to the success of this convention.

God bless us all!

Helen T. De Guzman
IIAP President

NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Seated from L-R (**Ma. Rosario Abot**, Citigroup Business Solutions Pte Ltd., **Mary Jane Rosales**, Petron Corp., **Helen De Guzman**, Meralco, **Elvira Soriano**, JCPB, **Richel Mendoza**, CADP) Standing from L-R (**Norman Gabriel**, P&G, **Rose Javier**, Isla Lipana & Co., **Reginald Nery**, KPMG Laya Mananghaya & Co.; **Melanie Oteyza**, San Miguel Corp. **Leonardo Matignas**, SGV & Co.; **Dante Soriano**, Soriano Soriano & Co., **Susan Domingo**, ICTSI, **Amador Racpan**, Philamlife) Not in the picture (**Araceli Ona**, St Luke's Medical Center, **Jose Ireneo**, University of Santo Tomas)

A formidable challenge faces **more than 200 internal audit practitioners** attending this year's 59th Annual Convention of the Institute of Internal Auditors – Philippines to create value and enhance the quality of their services to promote the image and credibility of the internal audit function.

Against the scenic backdrop of the Bloom City of Davao, participants will be treated to the sights and sounds of quality from October 19 to 21, beginning with a gracious but pulsating welcome from the Davaoeños, represented by their indefatigable mayor, Hon. Rodrigo Duterte.

Quality at its finest will be displayed by an impressive lineup of resource speakers guaranteed to stimulate convention partakers' appetite for immense challenge (see inset), tackling topics from the technical and technological to the ethical and moral.

The Institute's distinction for engendering certified professionals will once again be showcased as due recognition is given to new Certified Internal Auditors, Certification in Control Self-Assessment professionals and Certified Financial Services Auditors.

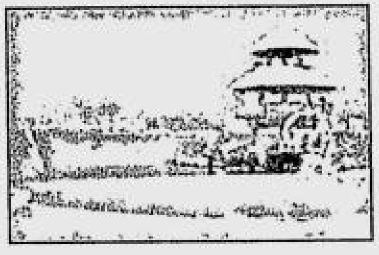
And to prove that the Institute is still quite adept at effectively blending learning with fun, live entertainment goes up as the sun goes down. But for the coup de grace, the final stroke of quality, participants will discover the exquisite beauty of the renowned Pearl Farm Resort, and the splendid flora, fauna, and orchards, that make Davao City a robust economic location of the South and a famous tourist getaway.

The IIA Philippines' conference has always been designed to make every participant's experience unique and memorable. This year's gathering showcases quality and value so that by focusing on value and quality, Internal Auditors can surely help turn things around for their organizations....indeed a formidable challenge!

Davao City is considered the world's largest city in terms of land area which is 2,443.6 square kilometers. It has an estimated population of 1,006,84 accounting to 19% of the entire Southern Mindanao region. It is the second biggest urabn market within the East ASEAN Growth Polygon

The solemn rituals of the tribes, their rythmic dance steps and chanting music are intimately interwoen with the rich customs and traditions of migrants. There are two mainfestivals, the Araw ng Dabaw celebration every March and the Kadayawan Fesitval in August

Davao is typhoon-free. The city enjoys fair weather, even rainfall, temperature, and humidity all year round. It has no pronounced conducive to agri-crop production. Average temperature is 32 degrees Celsius and average rainfall is up to 2,000 mm yearly



Pearl Farm is located in the Samal Island off the coast of Davao City, Southern Philippines. The premier beach resort, which lies in the pristine island of Samal, used to be a pearl farm. There thousands of white-lipped oysters, transported form the Sulu Sea, were once cultivated for their pink, white, and gold pearls. Today, beach lovers all over the world visit this world-class beach resort for its white sand and panoramic landscape and seascape, bringing with them the memory of a lifetime – a relaxing private retreat in a tropical paradise

PROGRAMME

October 19 (Thursday)
Opening Plenary
Opening Remarks, **Ms. Helen De Guzman, CIA**, *IIAP President*
Welcome Remarks, **Hon. Rodrigo R. Duterte**, *Mayor, Davao City*
Keynote Address, **Mr. Wee Hock Kee, CIA**, *ACIIA President*

Session Topics
Risk-Based Audit Approach
Ms. April Bernandino, CIA, *Director, Isla Lipana & Co*

The Role of Internal Audit in Risk Management
Mr. Rolando Valenzuela, *VP Chief Risk Officer, Export Bank*

Gala Night
Cultural Show featuring Kadayawan of Davao
Proclamation of 2007 IIAP Davao Board of Directors & Officers
CIA Awarding of Certificates

October 20 (Friday)
Session Topics
COBIT 4 Evolving IT Governance Framework
Mr. Reginald Nery, CIA, CISA, *Partner, KPMG Laya Mananghaya & Co*

Preventing & Detecting Business Fraud
Mr. Juan Carlos Robles, CFE, *Partner, Punongbayan & Araullo*

Balanced Scorecard for Internal Auditors
Ms.Rebecca Sarmenta, CIA, *Partner, SGV & Co*

QAR Countdown "Is Your Department Ready?"
Mr. Alfredo Dautzenberg, *QA Instructor IIA Inc.*

Organization & Culture in Ethical Environment
Dr. Jesus Estanislao, *Chairman, Institute of Corporate Directors*

Profiles of Success Best-in-class Internal Audit Departments
Ms. Veneranda Tomas, *CAE, San Miguel Corporation*, and
Ms. Celeste Mutuc, CIA, *Associate Director, P&G Global IA*

A Call to Service Little Things We Can Do To Help Our Country
Atty. Alexander Lacson, *Book Author*

Closing Plenary Dinner
Proclamation of 2007 IIAP National Board of Directors & Officers
Launching of the 60th Annual Convention

October 21 (Saturday)
Pearl Farm Resort tour

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HAPPINESS IS ...
Children living at the Baseco Compound in Tondo, Manila are all smiles after seeing their images in a digital camera.
JOAN BONDOC

₱5M worth of fake ₱5, ₱10 coins seized

By Margaux C. Ortiz

EVEN COINS OF SMALL DENOMINATION are now being counterfeited.

In its first operation against counterfeit Philippine coins, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) have seized P5 million worth of fake P5 and P10 currencies and arrested the Taiwanese operator behind the illegal operation.

NBI Director Nestor Mantaring said cases for violation of Articles 163 (Making, Importing and Uttering False Coins) and 165 (Selling of False Coins) of the Revised Penal Code would be filed against Yung Sung Liu alias "Asyong Lao" or Chih-Chah Liu.

Yung was arrested in his home on Tuesday at 68 A. Marcelo St., Barangay Dalandanan in Valenzuela City.

Mantaring said NBI operatives, led by Head Agent Roland Argabioso of the bureau's Field Operations Division (FOD), seized 17 boxes containing 112 plastic bags of fake P10 coins; 60 pieces of deformed counterfeit P10 coins; and 27 sacks containing blank coins.

Equipment also seized

Argabioso's team also confiscated an air compressor, a coin counter, a scan coin counter, a set of P5 coin cliché or electrotype plate, a dye cleaner, a pressing and stamping machine, a packaging and polishing machine and 200 fake P5 coins.

"This is the first time that our law enforcers seized counterfeit coins and arrested the operator," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Deputy Gov. Armando Suratos said in a press conference at the NBI yesterday.

"This kind of operation is unusual, even abroad," Suratos said, explaining

P5M WORTH/ A24

METROBRIEFS

Tiangco not worried

NAVOTAS Mayor Toby Tiangco, who like suspended Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay is a member of the opposition, yesterday said he is confident he would not share the same fate. "I'm certain that I would not be suspended because there is no pending case filed against me at the Ombudsman or any court, including the Office of the President ," Tiangco told the INQUIRER. Tiangco is a known ally of former President Joseph Estrada and is also the spokesperson of the deposed leader's political party, Pwersa ng Masa, in Metro Manila.

Nancy C. Carvajal

Celestial show coming up

ON OCT. 20 and 21, the Orionids will grace the night skies with 15 to 20 meteors per hour. The Seven Suites Hotel Observatory in Antipolo City invites stargazers of all ages to view the celestial spectacle. "Like all meteor showers, the Orionids are caused by debris from a comet," said Seven Suites' in-house astronomer Ramon Acevedo. This time, debris from the famous Halley's Comet will be seen in the sky, he said. "Weather permitting, everyone can enjoy this celestial event. And the shower can possibly produce some fireballs or bright meteors," Acevedo said. Seven Suites is located at the Hollywood Hills Subdivision on Sumulong Highway. For inquiries, call 4906407. 6820330 or 6822076.

Fiesta Pilar celebration set

THE LA HERMANDAD Zamboangueña event, an annual gathering of all Zamboangueñas in Metro Manila in celebration of Fiesta Pilar, will be held on Saturday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m. The affair, which will include dinner, a dance and a raffle, will be held at the Coral Ballroom, Manila Pavilion Hotel on UN Avenue, Manila. For details, contact Eloisa Perez at 8445229 or 0917-8071518.

Explosives found in truck in Taguig

By Jocelyn R. Uy

TENSION GRIPPED A NEIGHBORhood in Taguig City after a businessman found an ammunition box containing several explosives in his delivery truck yesterday morning.

City police chief Supt. Alfred Corpus said the ammunition box contained two blocks of TNT explosive weighing one pound each, a smoke grenade, seven ammunition magazines of different calibers and 35 pieces of spent shells.

Businessman Ciriaco Benosa Jr. immediately alerted the police after he found the ammunition box at the back of his delivery truck which was parked inside the EP Housing on Western Bicutan shortly before 9 a.m.

Benosa said he was inspecting his soft drink delivery truck when he saw the explosives.

Corpus, on the other hand, said the the explosive device was "not rigged to explode" as the Explosive Ordinance Division found no power source such as a blasting cap, a cellular phone or a battery to trigger an explosion.

Unassembled bomb

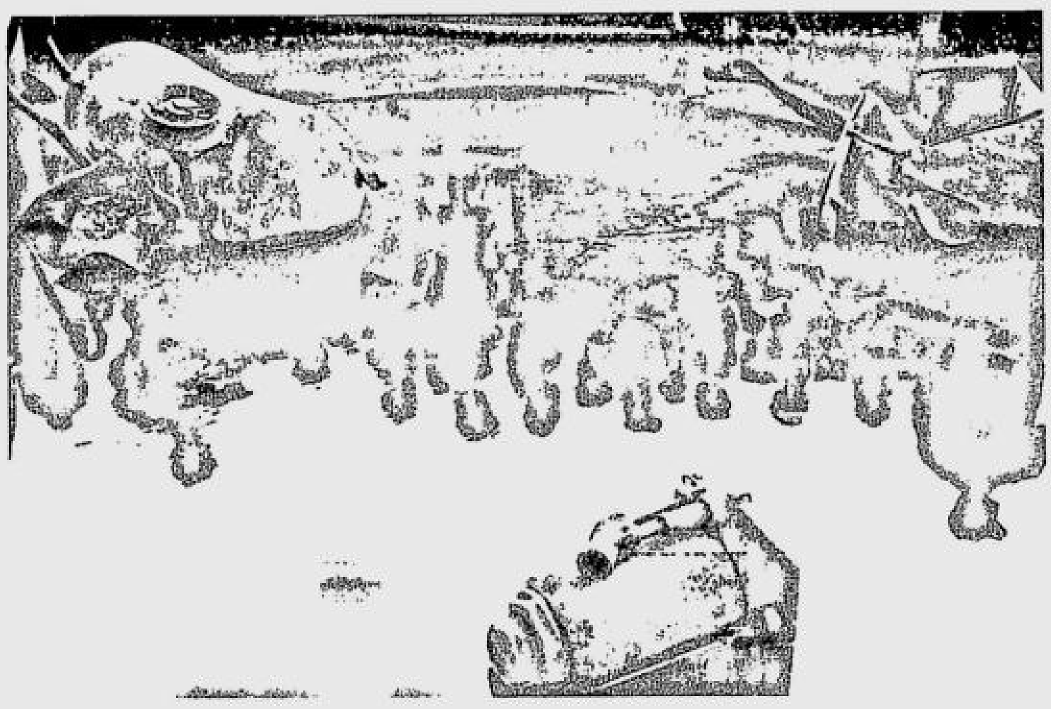
"The explosives were not yet assembled. But as to the motive behind this, we are still investigating," he told the INQUIRER.

He added that the explosives would have caused "substantial damage" if there had been a "power source" to trigger the explosion.

The police have not yet zeroed in on the people who left the ammunition box but a leather wallet was found 10 meters away from the truck.

Corpus identified the owner of the wallet as Kenadato Sailila, who is now the subject of investigation.

The discovery was made following reports that terrorists could be in the final stages of plotting more attacks in the metropolis and other parts of the country.



MIRROR REFLECTION
The image of a curious crowd that had gathered at a gas refilling center on Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City is reflected on a puddle of water. A truck carrying liquefied petroleum gas tanks hit a post yesterday, resulting in an explosion that rocked the refilling station.
EDWIN BACASMAS

A Seat fit for the Li'l King

Introducing
the Ayala Malls Cinemas
BOOSTER BUDDY.

Its two-sided design provides height options for children of different ages.

It has a cup and candy holder, it's odorless,and has no sharp corners.

Its lightweight design allows children to carry their own seat.

Ayala CINEMAS

Binay's suspension a political vendetta

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

THE SUSPENSION OF MAKATI MAYOR JEJOmar Binay by Malacañang smacks of political vendetta. The feisty mayor was at the forefront of the "GMA Resign" rallies.

If only for delicadeza, the Palace should have inhibited itself from investigating the complaint against Binay for employing "ghost" workers in the City Hall payroll. That job could have been best left to the Office of the Ombudsman, which is on the side of Malacañang anyway.

Binay's suspension was a clear message from the Palace to its political enemies: Don't mess with us.

In Tagalog street lingo, Malacañang's move was *garapal* (unashamedly barefaced).

* * *

This is not to say Binay is a saint. He has several pending cases with the Ombudsman for plunder.

But Malacañang should have foreseen the consequences of its action. Binay is very popular among his poor constituents. They are willing to die for him because he attends to their needs.

If the police were to make good on their threat to throw him out of City Hall, they would have a rebellion of Makati's poor on their hands.

The city is the country's premier town and central business district. When Makati sneezes, the country's economic and political system gets a cold.

Oh well, the Arroyo administration doesn't care as long as it is able to show its enemies or detractors who's the boss.

* * *

The police, in the course of enforcing the suspension order, are courting the ire of the soldiers based in Fort Bonifacio.

Among the people in the barricade are dependents of soldiers in Fort Bonifacio who are beneficiaries of Binay's spreading of Robin Hood sunshine. Let's hope the soldiers' dependents are not hurt during the scuffle for control of City Hall.

Another reason why the Makati standoff should be handled carefully is that Binay is a colonel in the Philippine Marines reserve. He didn't wear his Marine camouflage uniform Tuesday for nothing. That was to show that he has the sympathy of the Marines since he is one of them.

I heard from my sources at the Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifacio many enlisted personnel were willing to march to Makati City Hall to show their support for the embattled mayor. They were, however, prevented by their officers and confined to their barracks.

The situation in Makati is a time bomb ready to explode if not handled correctly.

* * *

Who's this Court of Appeals justice who antedates his decision just so he can delay the promulgation of a case?

Delaying the promulgation means there's time for the winning litigant, especially in a civil case concerning money, to talk to the justice.

Another justice just sleeps on the cases in his division. Although he doesn't extort money from litigants, he's just too lazy to go over the cases. In that case, this justice should be asked to retire.

Let's hope not all appellate court justices are acting like those two justices.

* * *

Mayor Talib Abu of Parang, Maguindanao had better not show his face in Davao City because Mayor Rodrigo Duterte hates him like the plague.

Duterte suspects Abu of unloading 3.5 kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride, popularly known as "shabu," in the city two months ago.

The controversial Davao mayor has mentioned the Muslim mayor in his radio and TV program.

Suspected drug peddlers mentioned in Duterte's radio and TV program end up getting killed under mysterious circumstances.

DID YOU KNOW

NINE out of 10 Metro Manila households have their trash picked up by a garbage truck (1.9 million out of 2.1 million households). About 112,000 households burn their garbage, while over 65,000 families dump their trash in individual pits. Only around 8,000 households practice composting.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

GREEN CHOICE PHILIPPINES,
the National Ecolabelling Programme of the Philippines
through The Department of Trade and Industry
and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources,
Co-Chairs of the National Ecolabelling Board (NELB) and its Technical Committee,

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GREEN PRODUCTIVITY *"Helping the good guys finish first"*
GREEN PURCHASING *"Buying less polluting products from less polluting companies"*
GREEN PHILIPPINES *"Ensuring the future of the generations to come"*

The GP3 Conference-Workshop-Exhibit will be an information watershed for manufacturers who want to meet today's global challenge of increased demand for less polluting products and manufacturing processes. It will also provide useful information, tools and know-how to companies and offices for their establishment of green purchasing programmes in pursuance of new government directives and national laws. Mark your calendar, 23-24 October 2006, 8:00am-6:00pm, Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City.

RESOURCE SPEAKERS

JOHN POLAK, founder and Chairman of TerraChoice Environmental Marketing, Inc. in Canada. TerraChoice helps companies convert environmental and social investment into market success and assists procurement organizations embrace environmental and social criteria in their buying practices. He is also the founding member and former Chairman of the Global Ecolabelling Network (GEN).

SCOT CASE after having been Director of the Alvernia College Faculty Institute in Pennsylvania, USA for several years, he recently established his own company, Responsible Sourcing Solutions in Pennsylvania.

KUN-MO LEE, a professor at the Ajou University, South Korea, and an expert in Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), EcoDesign and environmental standards. He authored three best practice handbooks on the subjects. With John Polak, he is co-founder of ECODESIGN Company with offices in Vienna, Seoul and Ottawa

Congressman NEREUS ACOSTA, Congressman Acosta has spurred a sea change in the way the government views the environment. In 1999, he made history by becoming the only freshman legislator with a national law to his name when he authored the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act. Dr. Acosta has represented the Philippines in numerous international forums, including the UN Special Assembly on HIV/AIDS and the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development where he now serves as Deputy Secretary General.

Ma. ELISEA "Bebet" GOZUN, Former DENR Secretary among others is a mother of two presently a Project Director of World Bank's City Development Strategy3 Project with the League of Cities of the Philippines; Governance Team leader, Environmental Cooperation in Asia, a regional environmental program of the USAid and also supported by the ADB operating in 8countries in Asia.

Three international and local speakers/ lecturers have been invited to present and discuss:

(1) **Market Trends and Pressures** *(why green is important in the evolving marketplace);*
(2) **Product Improvement** *(how products can be environmentally improved through Life Cycle Assessment and Design for Environment processes);*
(3) **Green Procurement** *(how to buy green - from policy to criteria and recognize environmental labels);*
(4) **Market Positioning** *(how to get your product/service noticed: through ecolabelling)*

Noted environmentalists/personalities from the government, private and business sector will share their insights on sustainable development:

Mrs. Amelita M. Ramos, Clean and Green Foundation, Inc.
Ambassador Ryu Yamazaki, Japan
Mr. Howard Belton, Unilever-Philippines
Mr. Alfonso C. Supetran, ACS Manufacturing
Mr. Ed Chua, Shell-Philippines
Mr. Sergio Ortiz Luis, PHILEXPORT
Dir. Jesus L. Motoomull, Bureau of Product Standards - DTI

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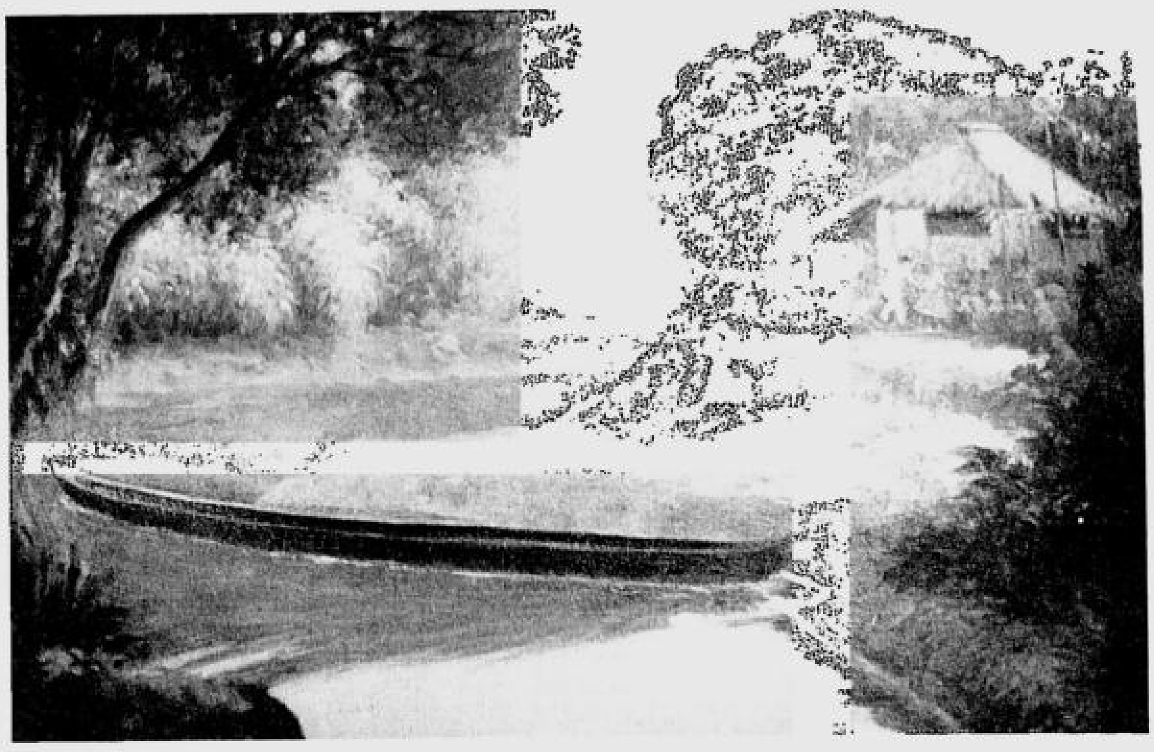
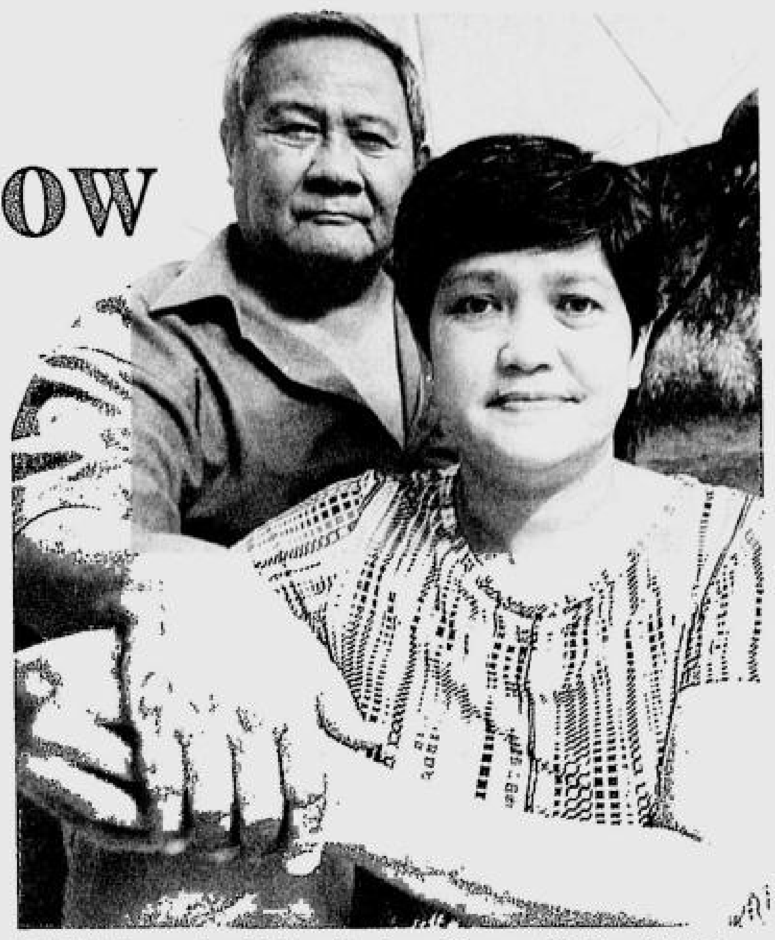
An Amorsolo emerges from his grandfather's shadow





RAFAEL Amorsolo with his wife of over 30 years, Marilyn. At left is one of Rafael's paintings which like his grandfather's work, features a rural scene.

PHOTOS BY EDWIN BACASMAS

By Candy Palenzuela-Dalizon
Contributor

THIS AMORSOLO CAN ALSO paint like his Lolo Nanding.

Rafael Miranda Amorsolo, grandson of Fernando Amorsolo, the country's first National Artist, also dabbles in landscapes and portraits.

"As a child, I remember watching my Lolo Nanding whenever he was painting," Rafael, "Raffy" to his family and friends, said to the INQUIRER.

"Fernando Amorsolo is more than a national artist to me. He is a great man, humble and generous," he added.

This is the first interview Raffy, who is turning 60 today, has given to media. For most of his life, he has preferred to live in his grandfather's shadow, but now, he is coming forward, not because he wants the publicity, but to pay tribute to his Lolo Nanding.

"I want the people to know that Lolo Nanding left us treasures more valuable than any material possession in this world: His good name, his integrity and his kindness," he added.

He fondly recalled that as a child, he and his grandmother, Felisa Jorge Amorsolo, often visited Lolo Nanding's house on Cordillera Street in Quezon City. There, they exchanged stories over lunch and snacks.

Raffy is the only son of pianist Pablo Amorsolo Jr., whose father, Pablo Sr., was the brother of the late national artist.

Orphaned at an early age

Raffy's father died of pneumonia when he was barely five months old. His mother, Teodora Miranda, also became sick and died a year later. After her death, Lola Felisa, Pablo Sr.'s wife, took care of him.

Raffy still gets misty-eyed whenever he remembers his childhood. He has fond memories of his grandmother, a housewife, who raised him by herself.

"We were able to survive because of the financial assistance coming from Lolo Nanding and my two uncles, Pedro and Cecilio. Lolo Nanding also helped send me to school, from elementary to college," he said.

Other relatives like Fernando's children—Nanding Jr., Adrian Lina, Gracia, Chita and Virginia—also pitched in whenever they could.

Change of plans

Raffy grew up in Sta. Ana, Manila. After graduation from high school, he took up Commerce at Philippine Women's University for three semesters. When he realized he wanted to be an artist like his grandfather, he transferred to Manuel Luis Quezon University where he enrolled in Fine Arts.

But after five semesters, he decided to quit college and started painting. He was only 18 years old then.

"I remember telling my Lolo *'Lo, kaya ko ginagawa ninyo, kaya ko rin po magpinta* (I can do what you're doing, I can also paint).' So he gave me materials so I could start painting," Raffy recalled.

The first painting he did was a portrait of his father. He said he was very happy when he showed it to his grandfather who told him, "*Marunong ka pala, pagbutihan mo pa lalo* (You know how to do it, work hard on it)." Raffy added that he could not forget how the national artist stared at the portrait with a sad smile.

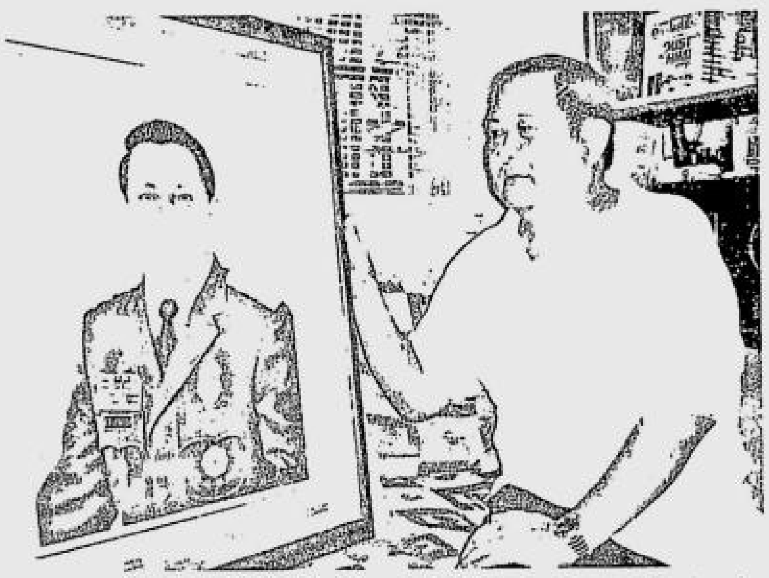
"I was still a baby when my parents died. I'm glad Lola Felisa took good care of me. I may have been young then but I could already feel their pity for me because I was an orphan," he said.

But Raffy was quick to add that his was a happy childhood. "*Kahit dalawa lang kaming magkasama ni Lola, naging masaya din naman kami* (Even if it was just the two of us, we were happy)" he said.

He did not leave his grandmother even when he married his longtime girlfriend, Marilyn Morte, in 1971. And up to Lola Felisa's dying hours, Raffy was at her side. His grandmother died in 1993 at the age of 84.

Raffy and Marilyn have four children—Elaine, who works in a bank; Alvin, an employee in a private firm; Alfred, a call center agent and Aris, a commerce student at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines.

> 'I want the people to know that Lolo Nanding left us treasures more valuable than any material possession in this world: His good name, his integrity and his kindness'



RAFAEL shows one of his creations, a portrait of Philippine National Police chief Oscar Calderon.

Career shift

When they were just starting out as a couple, Raffy worked in the camera department of the Philippine Match Co. in Sta. Ana, Manila. But he resigned after a few months because his heart was not in his work.

Raffy said he decided then to become a full-time artist. Although he was able to support his family on his earnings, he had to work harder when his wife resigned from her work at a supermarket in Makati.

"I told my wife to resign and look after the kids instead," he added. That was a bold decision on his part, knowing that he didn't have a stable income as an artist.

"The kids are my priority and they need their mother to be with them all the time," Raffy explained.

He doubled his efforts, offering his finished artworks to friends at reasonable prices. And when times were hard, he even accepted payments on installment basis.

His daughter Elaine serves as his agent and promoter.

Unsolicited offers

"It was never hard for me to offer my father's paintings to other people. They approach me most of the time, asking '*Ano mo si Fernando Amorsolo? Marunong ka mag-*paint? (How are you related to Fernando Amorsolo? Do you know how to paint?) '" she said.

"I would then tell them about my father and the orders just kept on coming," she added.

Elaine recalled one incident when she was applying as an intern at a company and the human resources head ordered a painting from her. At one time, a doctor, whom she had consulted when she was sick, asked if he could buy a painting from her.

She and her brothers were popular in school because of their family name, she added. During special occasions, their teachers would ask Raffy to do the backdrop for a program or a school poster free of charge.

"But there were also times when I felt I had to get orders for my father or else, we wouldn't be able to pay our tuition," Elaine said.

Raffy is more inspired to paint when his wife is beside him. He loves to talk with his wife and sometimes with his sons while working. His family would sometimes comment on his work. They would say in jest, "*Pa, hindi niya kamukha. Pa, malaki yung ilong, or Pa, parang masyadong maganda,* (Pa, it doesn't look like him. Pa, the nose seems big, or Pa, it seems too beautiful) " and they would all laugh.

Although he learned most of what he knows about painting from his Lolo Nanding, Raffy was also taught by his two uncles, Pedro and Cecilio.

Same technique

Like the national artist, he prefers to paint idyllic rural scenes. His paintings also feature the technique his grandfather became famous for—backlighting—in which all the figures seem to be outlined against a glow of light.

Some customers sometimes commission him to copy an original Amorsolo artwork.

"*Nagagawa ko naman pag 'yun ang request nila, pero siyempre ang pirma R. Amorsolo na, hindi F. Amorsolo,* (I can do it if that is their request but the signature will be R. Amorsolo, not F. Amorsolo)" he said.

"*Pero wala talagang makakagaya sa galing ng Lolo. May* magic *hand siya, kahit yung* brush strokes *niya, magaling talaga* (But no one can be as good as Lolo. He has a magic hand, even his brush strokes are excellent)." he added.

And like his Lolo Nanding, he doesn't like sad or gloomy paintings.

"*Gusto ko masaya, buhay na buhay 'yung* painting (I want my paintings to be joyful and full of life)," he said.

Raffy has also painted portraits of well-known personalities like former Sen. Tessie Aquino Oreta, Metrobank top official James Go, actresses Elizabeth Oropesa and Eula Valdez (who is his cousin), Chief Supt. German Doria who heads the Central Mindanao Police regional office, National Irrigation Administration Administrator Arturo Lomibao and Philippine National Police chief Oscar Calderon.

Full of life

"*Buhay na buhay 'yung* painting. *Parang totoong-totoo* (the painting is full of life, it seems very real)," Doria said of his portrait.

Maryanne Capa, one of Elaine's friends, saved money for their family portrait and another still life painting in 2001. Their family portrait now adorns their living room.

"Whenever people see the portrait, they would ask, '*Sino gumawa niyan* (who did that)?' and they would be surprised to know that it was done by Fernando Amorsolo's grandson," she said.

"Now that my three kids are growing up, I treasure our family portrait even more. It was able to capture the innocence of my three kids," Capa added.

She said she is happy she has two Amorsolo paintings at home. "*Wala man akong painting ni Fernando Amorsolo, meron naman akong dalawa na gawa ng apo niya* (I may not have a Fernando Amorsolo painting but I have two that were painted by his grandson)" she added.

Raffy, even in his younger years, never aspired to be as famous as his grandfather. He has never joined artists' groups or organizations. He also turned down offers from some sponsors for him to hold an exhibit. For many years, he has shied away from publicity.

"*Hindi ako nangarap ng kasikatan siguro dahil na rin sa naging buhay ko nung bata pa ako* (I never aspired for fame maybe because of what I experienced when I was young)," he said.

Raffy's family, however, understands very well why he never aspired to hit it big despite his talent. It's because he chose to be an ideal father to them first.

"My dream was never to be a famous artist. My dream was to have a happy family and I got it," he said.

Liz sues Willie …

From page A21

in violation of RA 9262—a law defining violence against women and children."

"I would probably work as consultant in the annulment case, which is a civil suit, and serve as full-time counsel on the criminal case," he pointed out.

Client bothered

Fortun acknowledged that Revillame is "bothered, just like anyone who is facing civil and criminal cases."

He explained that his role was precisely "to hold his client's hand, assure him that he will be allowed to present his side … that the public will find out what really happened in this case and that the public will continue supporting him."

Fortun said he became involved in the case after two unnamed supporters of Revillame approached him about the possibility of putting up a fund to take care of the comedian-host's legal expenses.

Anonymous donors

He added that the two "anonymous" donors have yet to meet Revillame and only knew him because they were regular viewers of "Wowowee."

"One is based abroad and the other one runs businesses in the country," Fortun told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Big contribution

The lawyer, however, declined to specify the exact amount of the contribution. "Suffice it to say that it's not a small amount."

He denied allegations that the donors are connected with Vice President Noli de Castro, whose wife Arlene de Castro is Revillame's manager.

"Definitely, this was not instigated by anyone close to the Vice President. I have never met or spoken with the Vice President. We're not even acquaintances," Fortun said.

'They pitied him'

He related that the two donors were prompted to put up the legal fund after watching the ABS-CBN late-night newscast "Bandila," which showed a footage of "Revillame being thrown out of the conjugal home. They pitied him. They also heard reports that his bank accounts were frozen. They were under the impression that he needed help in his legal expenses."

The "Bandila" report is now the subject of a "contempt case" for supposedly violating a court-imposed gag order on the annulment suit.

On Oct. 12, Fortun visited the "Wowowee" set in the ABS-CBN studios, where he met Revillame for the first time.

Very much needed

"I told him about the donation. He said he couldn't accept it, but he admitted that it was welcome and very much needed. He added that he would only accept if I would represent him," the lawyer said.

Fortun added that what he brings to Revillame's legal team is his "familiarity with high-profile cases wherein public perception plays a big role."

P5M worth of …

From page A23

that German bank officials had said that cases of coin counterfeiting in their country, for example, were rare.

Public warned

Suratos warned the public to beware of fake coins, saying that these were generally rough to the feel, with large letters and irregular profiles of Philippine heroes.

He added that the fake coins were attracted to magnets because of their altered metallic properties.

Suratos explained that P10 coins are made of copper, nickel, aluminum and zinc, and P5 coins, of copper and nickel. Fake coins, on the other hand, had magnetic components "which made them magnetic."

Huge profits

The BSP official likewise stressed that the suspect may have made substantial profits from manufacturing the fake denomination.

"Our mint in Quezon City spends P3.12 for the manufacture of each P10 coin," Suratos said, adding that the suspect may have been able to make the fakes for a lesser amount.

Stall owners involved?

Argabioso said they began looking for the manufacturers of fake coins on Oct. 10 following complaints from shoppers that some stall owners in a Parañaque mall were allegedly spreading the coins.

He added that the suspects were selling P500 worth of coins for P450.

EU backs limited sanctions on Iran

LUXEMBOURG—THE EUROpean Union, spurred by North Korea's nuclear test, backed limited United Nations sanctions against Iran's nuclear program on Tuesday after Tehran spurned conditions for opening negotiations.

The EU's 25 foreign ministers, meeting in Luxembourg, called for incremental measures that officials said would be targeted first at individuals and materials involved in Iranian uranium enrichment activities. The West suspects Iran is seeking nuclear weapons but Tehran insists it only aims to generate electricity.

After four months of talks with EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana, Iran this month rejected a UN demand that it suspend enrichment.

"The Iranians' refusal leaves us no choice today but to take to the Security Council route. The Security Council should adopt gradual, reversible measures proportionate to Iranian actions," French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy told reporters.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier called it the "first step in sanctions" but stressed the EU's offer of cooperation remained on the table if Iran was willing to meet the conditions.

In New York, French UN Ambassador Jean-Marc de la Sabliere told Reuters three European powers—France, Britain and Germany—planned to put forward a draft UN Security Council resolution "during the course of this week. We are aiming for Wednesday or Thursday."

Reuters

US antiterror law allows indefinite detention

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush on Tuesday signed a controversial law allowing secret overseas CIA prisons, harsh interrogation tactics, and military trials as weapons against suspected terrorists.

The measure, which US lawmakers approved last month after a bitter election-year debate over national security and civil liberties, also allows the United States to detain alleged terrorists indefinitely, US officials said.

Bush said that the law ratified strategies that have prevented terrorist attacks on the United States and paved the way for a military trial of the alleged architect of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed.

"The bill I sign today helps secure this country, and it sends a clear message: This nation is patient and decent and fair, and we will never back down from the threats to our freedom," Bush said at a White House signing ceremony, flanked by top US military and intelligence officials.

BUSH AFP

With just three weeks before key Nov. 7 elections to decide control of the US Congress, Bush and his Republicans wasted no time in using the measure against Democrats who opposed it, accusing them of being soft on terrorism.

"The debate over this bill has been heated, and the questions raised can seem complex," said the president.

"With the distance of history, the questions will be narrowed and few: Did this generation of Americans take the threat seriously, and did we do what it takes to defeat that threat? Every member of Congress who voted for this bill has helped our nation rise to the task that history has given us," he said.

Republican House Speaker Dennis Hastert bluntly charged that the Democrats hoped to "gingerly pamper the terrorists who plan to destroy innocent Americans' lives." Democratic Representative Ed Markey said that the legislation "will not make us more secure," charging it would raise the risk US military personnel will be tried overseas, undermine the Geneva Convention and provide "retroactive immunity" to US interrogators who may have committed war crimes.

Bush dismissed allegations that the legislation guts US commitments to the Geneva Convention on wartime prisoners and okays interrogation procedures that critics have branded torture, like extended sleep deprivation and a procedure in which a detainee is made to feel like he is drowning.

"This bill complies with both the spirit and the letter of our international obligations. As I've said before, the United States does not torture. It's against our laws and it's against our values," he said.

Outside the White House, roughly 200 demonstrators protested the law, with one waving a sign that said "Bush Torture Law Shames America." About 15 were arrested, according to organizers.

The American Civil Liberties Union slammed the law as "one of the worst civil liberties measures ever enacted in American history." "The president can now—with the approval of Congress—indefinitely hold people without charge, take away protections against horrific abuse, put people on trial based on hearsay evidence, authorize trials that can sentence people to death based on testimony literally beaten out of witnesses," ACLU executive director Anthony Romero said in a statement.

The measure was drafted in response to a US Supreme Court ruling in June that Bush had overstepped his powers and breached the Geneva Conventions by setting up special war crimes tribunals for "war on terror" suspects.

It was expected to face immediate legal challenges that could once again take the issue to the nation's highest court—albeit well after the election. *AFP*

SILK MAKING. A woman pulls strands of silk from a vat full of silkworm cocoons at a silk factory in the ancient town of Hotan, Oct. 13, in China's far west Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region in Central Asia. AFP

Israeli president set for indictment

JERUSALEM—PROSECUTORS HAVE begun to draft a charge sheet against Israeli President Moshe Katsav after police said they had evidence he committed rape, Israeli media reported on Tuesday.

Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, in the strongest criticism yet by a senior official, suggested Katsav should step aside.

As pressure grew on Katsav to quit, two allies of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert went on trial: former Justice Minister Haim Ramon over charges he forced a kiss on a female soldier and lawmaker Tzachi Hanegbi over high-level appointments he made while a minister in a previous government.

Army Radio reported the state attorney-general, Menachem Mazuz, was likely to decide within two weeks to press charges against Katsav over the scandal involving female employees.

The report, published also by the Haaretz newspaper, said Jerusalem prosecutors were drafting a charge sheet after police said on Sunday they had evidence Katsav had "carried out sex crimes of rape, sexual molestation by force and without consent." Justice Ministry spokesperson Moshe Cohen said he had no comment.

Katsav, 60, whose ceremonial position is widely seen as a unifying force in a country of deep political divides, has denied any wrongdoing and said he is the victim of a "public lynching without trial." His lawyer, Tsion Amir, said the president would resign his post if an indictment was brought against him.

"If the attorney-general decides, heaven forbid, there is room for an indictment, the president would not stay on for a moment," Amir said in remarks broadcast by Army Radio.

Livni was quoted by Israeli news portal Ynet News as saying it was "not proper" for Katsav to remain president.

"I don't think it's correct that the president holds onto his position," Livni said during a visit to the city of Hadera.

Katsav is the highest ranking Israeli politician ever suspected of sex crimes. He could face up to 16 years in prison if tried and found guilty of rape.

Israeli newspapers said competition for who would succeed Katsav was heating up.

Israeli Vice Premier Shimon Peres, a Nobel peace laureate, was a candidate to replace Katsav, though it was unclear whether he would agree to run. Katsav defeated Peres in an upset election when he was chosen by parliament in 2000.

Another name mentioned as a possible candidate is former cabinet minister Natan Sharansky, a former Soviet dissident.

The Katsav scandal is unlikely to have any direct effect on the fortunes of Olmert or his coalition government.

But it coincides with court trials involving Olmert allies, Ramon and Hanegbi. *Reuters*

US full of Internet addicts, say researchers

SAN FRANCISCO—THE UNITED States could be rife with Internet addicts as clinically ill as alcoholics, a study released on Tuesday suggested.

Researchers at Stanford University School of Medicine in Stanford, California, said their telephone survey indicated more than one in eight US residents showed at least one sign of "problematic Internet use." The findings backed those of previous, less rigorous studies, according to the Stanford researchers.

Most disturbing was the discovery that some people hid their Internet surfing, or went online to cure foul moods in ways that mirrored the way alcoholics use booze, according to the study's lead author, Elias Aboujaoude.

"In a sense, they're using the Internet to self-medicate," Aboujaoude said. "And obviously something is wrong when people go out of their way to hide their Internet activity."

According to preliminary research, the typical Internet addict is a single, college-educated, white male in his 30s, who spends approximately 30 hours a week on non-essential computer use.

While the profile might hint that online pornography is at the root of the Internet obsession, that was only one piece of the equation, Aboujaoude concluded.

"Online pornography and, to some degree, online gambling, have received the most attention but users are as likely to use other sites, including chat rooms, shopping venues and special-interest web sites," Aboujaoude said.

"Pornography is just one area of excessive Internet use." Stanford researchers interviewed 2,513 adults in a nationwide household survey. Because Internet addiction has not been clinically defined as a medical condition, study questions were based on established addiction disorders.

Research indicated that nearly 14 percent of the respondents found it difficult to stay away from the Internet for several days and that slightly more than 12 percent often remained online longer than expected.

More than eight percent of the people surveyed said they hid "non-essential" Internet use from family, friends or employers and nearly the same number went online to flee from real-world problems.

Nearly six percent of the respondents felt that their personal relationships suffered as a result of their excessive Internet use.

"Our telephone survey suggests that potential markers of problematic Internet use are present in a sizeable portion of the population," the researchers noted in a paper appearing in the October issue of CNS Spectrums: The International Journal of Neuropsychiatric Medicine.

Aboujaoude, a psychiatry professor in charge of Stanford's Impulse Control Disorders Clinic, said that a small but increasing number of Internet users are going to doctors seeking help to sever their unhealthy attachments to cyberspace.

He said these patients' compulsive drive to check e-mail, make blog entries or visit websites or chat rooms is not unlike what sufferers of substance abuse experience—an irresistible urge to perform an act that may be pleasurable in the moment but that can lead to significant problems on personal and professional levels.

"The issue is starting to be recognized as a legitimate object of clinical attention, as well as an economic problem, given that a great deal of non-essential Internet use takes place at work," said Aboujaoude. *AFP*

America's 300 millionth person has arrived

NEW YORK—TUESDAY WAS THE birthday of the daredevil Evil Knievel, the actress Margot Kidder, the columnist Jimmy Breslin, and also of Emanuel Plata in Queens, Zoe Emilie Hudson in Manhattan, Kiyah Lanae Boyd in Atlanta and any number of other newborns who just may be the 300 millionth American.

The babies were born at or about 7:46 a.m., when the Census Bureau says the nation's population officially reached that benchmark.

Theoretically, the 300 millionth American might have arrived at an airport from overseas at that hour, or have been smuggled before dawn across an unguarded border in the Southwest.

Just as Life magazine did in 1967 with the 200 millionth American, local and national news outlets nominated their own 300 millionth Americans.

On average, 11,000 babies are born in the United States each day and the nation grows by 3,000 or so immigrants.

At the Census Bureau headquarters in Suitland, Md., a crowd broke into cheers at 7:46 a.m. when the digital population clock, calculating that an American is born every seven seconds, one dies every 13 seconds and the nation gains an immigrant from abroad every 31 seconds, flashed 300,000,000.

Technically, of course, the 300 millionth American arrived long ago. According to Carl Haub, a senior demographer with the Population Reference Bureau, since 1790 as many as 550 million people have lived in the United States.

Statistically, demographers generally agreed, the person who pushed the current population past 300 million should have been a Hispanic boy in the Southwest.

New York Times News Service

Riddle on shape of Andromeda galaxy solved

PARIS—A TWO-DECADE-LONG riddle about the bizarre shape of the Milky Way's nearest spiral-shaped galaxy, Andromeda, has been solved, says a study to be published on Thursday in Nature, the weekly British science journal.

Instead of having the flat plane and outflung arms that are the hallmarks of a mature spiral galaxy, Andromeda has a warped plane and several rather chaotic, overlapping outer rings, like ripples of stars.

The reason, according to an international team of astronomers: Andromeda suffered a head-on collision with a smaller galaxy some 210 million years ago.

The evidence comes from infrared images of Andromeda taken by the orbiting Spitzer Space Telescope, and these reveal a quite different picture.

It shows a previously-hidden, tilted second ring that protrudes from the heart of the galaxy. This ring is likely to be the shockwave of gas and dust from a colossal collision.

The theory has been put to the test in a computer simulation. It suggests that a "dwarf" galaxy, M32, was the likely impactor, driving straight into the heart of Andromeda, also called M31, to create a behemoth of a trillion stars. *AFP*

Madonna defends adoption of 13-month Malawian baby

LONDON—US DIVA MADONNA on Tuesday defended her adoption of a 13-month-old baby boy from Malawi, releasing an open letter to explain her joy at bringing him to Britain.

The boy, David Banda, was whisked through London's Heathrow Airport early on Tuesday by Madonna's aides after he flew from Lilongwe, Malawi's capital, to South Africa, in a private jet, from where he was flown first-class to London.

In a whir of activity, he was then apparently taken to Madonna's three-storey home in central London on a tree-lined street of stately Victorian terrace houses, which was staked out by the world's media.

Madonna insisted that, along with her husband Guy Ritchie, she had begun the adoption process several months ago and acted "according to the law like anyone else who adopts a child," after local rights groups in Malawi alleged that she was breaking the country's laws.

The 48-year-old was granted an interim order to adopt the poor farmer's son by a high court in Malawi last Thursday after spending a week in the poverty-stricken country to assess AIDS projects she had funded.

AN UNIDENTIFIED woman believed to be a nanny carries the African infant being adopted by Madonna as she makes her way through London's Heathrow airport with a police escort early Tuesday Oct. 17. AP

But the Human Rights Consultative Committee, an umbrella grouping of 67 local rights groups in Malawi, went to court Monday to challenge the interim order allowing Madonna to adopt the boy.

Under Malawian law, expatriates adopting a child usually have to live in the country for 18 months and are monitored by social workers before they get full adoption rights. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Another suicide attack in Sri Lanka

GALLE, SRI LANKA—Suspected Tamil rebels posing as fishermen blew up two of their boats in a suicide ambush on a naval base, killing at least one sailor in the first such attack on Sri Lanka's touristy southern coast, the military said. Two sailors were also missing and at least 12 others wounded in the attack in the resort town of Galle, while two navy fast boats and another small boat suffered damage, a Defense Ministry spokesperson said, adding that 14 civilians were also wounded. Police imposed an open-ended curfew in Galle, and an Associated Press reporter there said the town was calm but under heavy security. *AP*

Jordan jails al-Qaida militants

AMMAN—A Jordanian military court on Wednesday sentenced eight Jordanian al-Qaida-linked Islamists to jail terms of between 10 and two years for plotting attacks on US and Jewish targets. Convicted ringleader Ahmad Shbaneh was handed a 10-year jail term, although the prosecutor had demanded the death penalty against him and his co-defendants, three of whom are on the run. Fugitives Ahmad Yassin and Haitham al-Gazzaz were also given a 10-year term, while the other defendants were sentenced to between two and seven-and-a-half years in prison. *AFP*

9 US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD—The US military announced on Wednesday the deaths of nine US troops in incidents in Iraq on Tuesday, including four soldiers killed when their vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb west of Baghdad. More than 60 US soldiers have been killed in October. More than 2,775 have died since the US invasion in 2003. Three soldiers were killed and one wounded while conducting operations in Diyala province, north of Baghdad, the US military said in a statement without providing details. In northern Baghdad, a US soldier died after his patrol was attacked with small-arms fire. In western Anbar province, a Sunni insurgent stronghold, a US Marine died from his wounds after coming under fire. *Reuters*

Clashes mar Peron burial

BUENOS AIRES—Rival Argentine union groups battling with sticks and bottles on Tuesday marred a ceremony to bury former President Juan Peron for the third time since his death in 1974. The violence erupted hours after thousands of Argentines packed the streets of Buenos Aires to pay tribute to Peron—famous for his marriage to "Evita"—as his coffin was led in a caravan to a new mausoleum at his former weekend retreat. Unions and leaders of the Peronist party were behind the move, aiming to make his burial place more befitting one of the country's leading figures. *Reuters*

World fears further N. Korea nuke tests

SEOUL—INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE WAS mounting Wednesday on North Korea not to conduct a second nuclear test after the reclusive state said UN sanctions imposed after its first test were tantamount to a "declaration of war."

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, bound for Asia and Russia to firm up support for enforcing those punitive measures, said a second test would "only deepen their isolation, which is pretty deep right now." "There are a number of states that are telling the North Koreans that further escalation would not be in their interests or in the interests of peace and security," she told reporters aboard her official aircraft.

US officials said Rice was bearing an ambitious plan for inspections of North Korean sea, land and air shipments to ensure the erratic regime does not sell its newly proven nuclear arsenal to terrorists or rogue states.

Earlier White House spokesperson Tony Snow indicated that Washington expected Pyongyang to carry out a second test.

"The North Koreans have made no secret of their desire to be provocative," he told reporters. "It would not be a good thing for them, but it certainly would not be out of character." France warned that the UN Security Council could take "further measures" if Pyongyang went ahead with a second test.

"A new test by North Korea would constitute an act of extraordinary irresponsibility, that could only push it into further isolation," said foreign ministry spokesperson Jean-Baptiste Mattei.

"In that event, the Security Council would have to consider further measures against North Korea," he added.

"We are warning North Korea very clearly about that," he said.

China, the North's closest ally, said it had no information about a possible second test but urged Pyongyang not to escalate tensions.

"We hope the DPRK (North Korea) ... will come back to the track of resolving the issue through dialogue and consultation, instead of taking any action that will further escalate or worsen the situation," foreign ministry spokesperson Liu Jianchao said in Beijing.

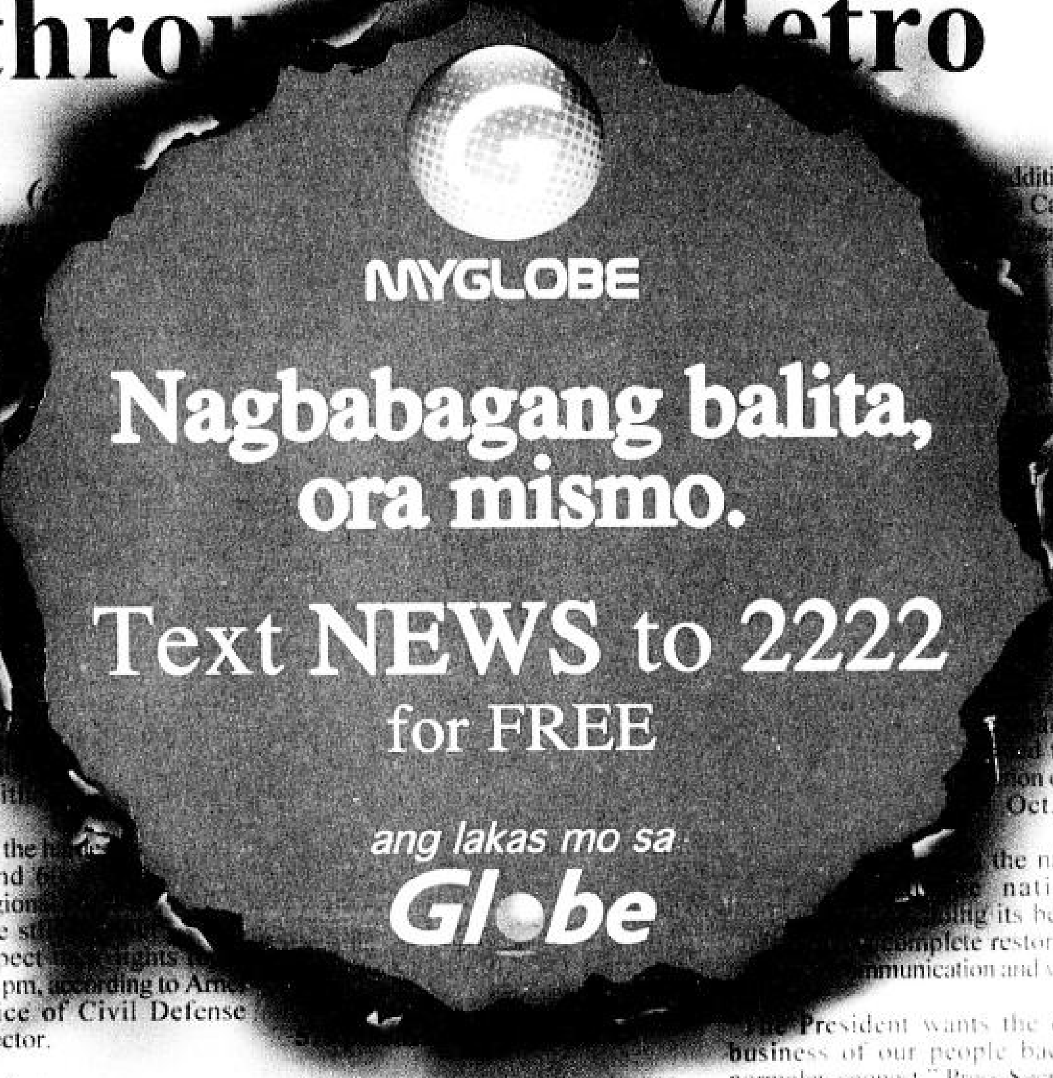
Liu said China, impoverished North Korea's biggest trade partner, would abide by the UN sanctions.

The UN resolution adopted after the first nuclear test on Oct. 9 calls on Pyongyang to give up all weapons of mass destruction, bans nations from sending heavy weapons or luxury goods to the North, and calls for a freeze on any of the North's weapons-related funds.

More controversially, it also allows for the inspection of cargo going in and out of North Korea.

China and South Korea, while insisting they back the sanctions, have said intercepting North Korean ships could make an already tense situation even worse. *AFP*

Utilities to be restored thro Metro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Restoration faster

Meralco will be coordinating closely with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority to ensure smooth traffic flow in areas where fallen trees, electric posts, and billboards pose as hazards.

Meralco also ensures that all Metro Manila railway systems -- Light Rail

Out of Meralco's more than 600,000 poles in its franchise area, Francisco said it had confirmed damage to only 570 -- 444 felled or broken, 58 leaning and 68 cracked or slightly damaged. The number of damaged poles is likely to go up in the coming days, including the cost required to repair or replace them. Total damage to power lines so far could be placed at more than P500 million.

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mmunication and water.

President wants the daily business of our people back to normalcy soonest," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

Communications

Meralco has restored power in all 124 of its circuits in the northern area (from Malabon to Balintawak in Quezon City), 319 of the 386 circuits in the central area (from Balintawak to Alabang), and 100 of the 150 circuits in the southern area. (from Alabang to Batangas and Quezon).

Yunus eyes political movement

DHAKA—BANGLADESH'S FIRST Nobel laureate said Wednesday he might form his own political party as he attacked the electoral reforms deadlock between the impoverished nation's two main parties.

"The country needs different politics. If we hold elections and there are no quality candidates, there will be no solution," said Muhammad Yunus, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize last Friday.

"I still put the stress on the movement for quality candidates ... If necessary, I will form a political party," he told reporters.

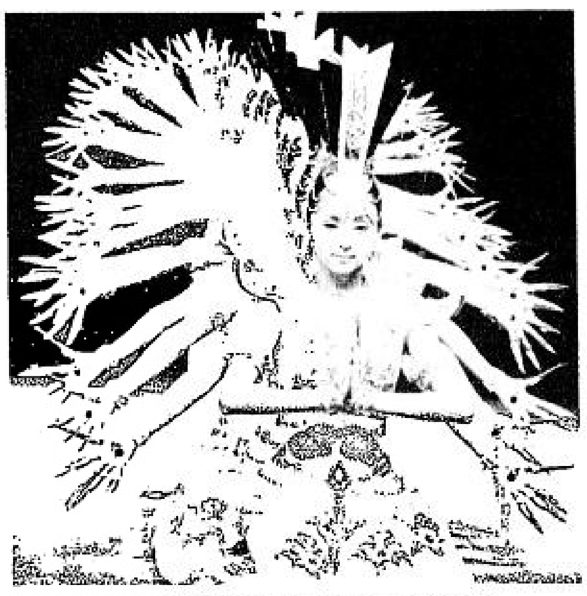
Yunus was speaking before leaving for South Korea, where he is to be honored as the winner of the eighth Seoul Peace Prize awarded for his role in developing microcredit.

The prize is given to politicians, academics, activists and international organizations and carries an annual prize of $200,000.

Yunus and his Grameen Bank, which offers tiny loans to poor borrowers to help them become self-employed, won the prestigious Nobel peace prize jointly.

The former economics professor said people were looking for a way out of the present political crisis and he saw a role for himself.

"I'm not saying I can do it. But someone has to try. People are looking for options about how we can get out of this crisis ... this political standoff. So if I can play any role in this regard, I will," he added. *AFP*



TRADITIONAL DANCE. A group of Chinese dancers perform the Thousand Goddess of Mercy dance at a benefit in Yichang, central China's Hubei province, Oct. 17. Dance troupes have enjoyed great support from the government. AFP

UN explores compromise on Security Council race

UNITED NATIONS—Venezuela and Guatemala failed repeatedly on Tuesday to garner enough votes to win a two-year seat on the UN Security Council, prompting a 24-hour break to explore how to resolve the impasse.

Brazil's UN ambassador, Ronaldo Sardenberg, said Latin American and Caribbean nations had agreed to hold off voting until Thursday and meet informally to assess the situation.

Venezuela and Guatemala agreed but neither country withdrew.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez described the protracted voting as a showdown between his country and the United States.

"I say to them and the whole world, Venezuela will keep fighting this battle," Chavez said during a meeting with a Chinese delegation in Caracas.

In 22 rounds of voting on Monday and Tuesday for a Latin American seat next year, Guatemala won all but one round which ended in a tie. But neither country received the two-thirds vote needed in the 192-member General Assembly. *Reuters*

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Peñalosa replaces Jaca in Hoya card/A31

SPORTS

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Pujols powers Cardinals /A28

RP to host next 3 WPC tilts

EFREN "Bata" Reyes: Bounty in sight RODEL ROTONI

THE WORLD POOL CHAMPIONSHIPS, THE most prestigious international 9-ball tournament, has found a home of sorts in the country that has produced the sport's biggest names.

Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines (BCSP) chair Yen Makabenta said yesterday at the launch of the event that the country will host the next two stages of the event, with an option to host the third one.

The co-organizing groups of Raja Sports and the Matchroom Sport have agreed to a two-year contract with the WPC, also signing an option to extend the country's hosting rights for another year.

"We are sure of holding the event here at least until next year," Makabenta said. "We also have the first option for 2008."

According to Diana Chan, representative of the event's television partner ESPN, the other countries bidding to host the tournament after the Philippines are Malaysia, Indonesia and Chinese Taipei.

FROM left Ernie Fajarda, William Ramirez and Yen Makabenta ROGER MARGALLO

Matchroom Sport representative Ted Lerner added that South Korea and the Netherlands are also showing interest to host the world championship of 9-ball.

Asian 9-Ball Tour Order of Merit topnotcher and 1999 champion Efren "Bata" Reyes leads a formidable 12-man Filipino crew that has already qualified for the WPC. The other top stars include 2004 winner Alex Pagulayan, recent San Miguel Beer Philippine 9-Ball Open champion Francisco "Django" Bustamante and last year's semi-finalist Marlon Manalo.

Among the favorite to advance to the main draw after a series of qualifying rounds slated Oct. 28 to Nov. 1 are young stars Mike Takayama, Roberto Gomez and Renemar David and veterans Lee Vann Corteza and Antonio "Nickoy" Lining, Antonio Gabica, Leonardo "Dodong" Andam and Warren Kiamco.

The alternate break will be implemented throughout the tournament for the first time. The players will also be divided into 32 groups of four players each this year instead of 16 groups of eight players each.

The top two finishers from each group will advance into the 64-man knockout phase.

Philippine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez, Jr. believes the Filipinos will have a grand time in the WPC this year. "It's different when you're playing in front of your hometown," said Ramirez.

Also present during the launch were BSCP president Ernesto Fajardo, PSC Commissioner Ritchie Garcia, former PSC Commissioner Cynthia Carreon and Philippine Airlines assistant vice-president Jess Guidote Garcia. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

Bata leaves hospital, gets good news

By Marlon Bernardino, *Contributor*

TRAVELING THROUGH DIFFERENT TIME zones to rule three different tournaments finally took its toll on the Magician.

But after a short confinement at a local hospital in his hometown in Angeles City, Pampanga, Efren "Bata" Reyes was back on his toes armed with a clean bill of health and the good news that he might finally get his paycheck for his most lucrative victory yet.

The 52-year-old pool legend complained of high fever and difficulty breathing last Sunday after the San Miguel Beer Philippine 9-Ball Tour at the Casino Filipino Pagcor Theater in Parañaque City .

He was diagnosed of having elevated blood sugar and asthma at the Angeles University Hospital .

"I felt a little tired and my body had a difficult time adjusting to the weather," said Reyes, who came from the World Cup of Pool with Django Bustamante in South Wales, England, the cash-rich IPT tournament in Nevada, and the San Miguel Asian 9-ball tour last leg in Jakarta, Indonesia.

PUYAT

Reyes said the travel is starting to wear his body down. "I'm not getting any younger," he said.

The three-day confinement may just be what Reyes needed to get rejuvenated in time for the World Pool Championships that the country is hosting. But his spirits got a boost when long-time benefactor Aristeo "Putch" Puyat told him he could get his $500,000 purse for ruling the Nevada IPT soon.

Puyat, quoting IPT founder Kevin Trudeau, said that the Ho Interactive's acquisition of the IPT is already on the final phase.

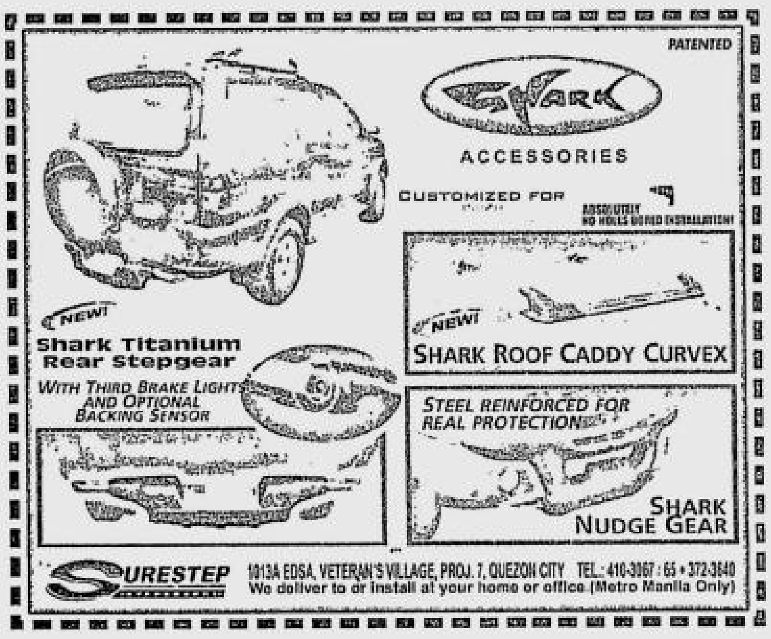
"Kevin promised to pay the players within the shortest amount of time," Puyat said in a separate interview.

"We will definitely know soon if it's true," he added. "If there's no truth to that, by now, Stanley Ho would have issued a denial already."

The Angeles City pool wizard beat American Rodney Morris, 13-5, in the finals to bag the $500,000 top prize last August.

Meanwhile, Reyes said he's ready to show his

BATA/ A30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Pujols powers Cardinals

ST. LOUIS—A BIG SWING BY ALBERT Pujols and another playoff gem from a rejuvenated Jeff Weaver put the St. Louis Cardinals on the cusp of the World Series.

Pujols' homer helped the Cardinals get to Tom Glavine at last, and Weaver shut down the New York Mets for a 4-2 victory Tuesday night and a 3-2 lead in the NL championship series.

"He doesn't give in too much," Pujols said. "I'm just glad it went out of the park."

Cardinals ace Chris Carpenter can close it out Wednesday night in Game 6 at Shea Stadium, which would give St. Louis its second pennant in three years and a date with the Detroit Tigers in the World Series. Rookie right-hander John Maine is on the mound for the Mets, who hope to force a Game 7 at home.

The Cardinals got timely hits from Preston Wilson and Ronnie Belliard, and an insurance homer by pinch-hitter Chris Duncan. With the red-clad crowd of 46,496 twirling white towels, St. Louis' young bullpen held on in the late innings after getting roughed up during New York's 12-5 victory in Game 4.

The second rainout of the series Monday night gave Glavine and Weaver a chance to pitch on regular rest instead of only a three-day break.

Making his 35th postseason start, the most in major league history, Glavine got only 12 outs. Weaver, on the other hand, earned his second impressive playoff victory.

NEW YORK Mets starting pitcher Tom Glavine (left) throws against St. Louis Cardinals Albert Pujols. REUTERS

And now, for the second time in the series, the clubs will travel without a day off.

Pujols' homer put St. Louis on the scoreboard and snapped Glavine's 22-inning scoreless streak that dated to his final regular-season start at Washington. Playing on a sore right hamstring, Pujols also went to his knees at first base for Shawn Green's one-hopper in the sixth.

The 40-year-old Glavine threw four-hit ball for seven sharp innings in Game 1, beating Weaver 2-0 on Carlos Beltran's two-run homer.

But Weaver got the best of this matchup.

Cast off by the Los Angeles Angels this summer to make roster room for his little brother, Jered, the St. Louis right-hander kept Beltran and Carlos Delgado in check, yielding only two runs and six hits in six strong innings. AP

Air show, burgers mark Lidle memorial

COVINA, CALIFORNIA—THREE SMALL PLANES flew over mourners at a memorial Tuesday for Yankees pitcher Cory Lidle, an emotional reminder to his family, friends and teammates that he died doing something he loved.

Following Lidle's funeral, hundreds of mourners did something else he enjoyed; they sat down to a luncheon of burgers, his favorite fast food.

The 34-year-old pitcher and his flight instructor, Tyler Stanger, were killed last Wednesday when Lidle's plane crashed into a Manhattan high-rise during an aerial tour of the city.

"Everybody was doing fine until the planes went over," Randy Wolf, Lidle's former teammate on the Philadelphia Phillies, said after the funeral.

Emotions ran high among hundreds of mourners during a 45-minute outdoor service. Men wiped away tears from behind dark glasses, and knots of family members shared long embraces near Lidle's casket, which was flanked by large color photos of the pitcher. Several people wore buttons with a photo of Lidle pitching and the words, "Forever in our hearts."

"I was one guy who would have gone up with him," said Phillies catcher Mike Lieberthal, whose plan to fly with Lidle during spring training never came off.

"It's just crazy to believe how something like that could happen," he said.

Lidle's wife, Melanie, briefly came out to thank those who had helped since her husband's death. After thanking her sister, the Yankees and Major League Baseball, she dissolved into heaving sobs and was helped away.

The couple's 6-year-old son, Christopher, had hugged his mother during the service.

Among those at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Lidle's hometown were Hall of Famer Reggie Jackson and a contingent of Yankees: captain Derek Jeter, former high school teammate Jason Giambi, Jaret Wright, manager Joe Torre and general manager Brian Cashman.

Since Lidle's death, Torre said he has replayed the same image in his mind from New York's loss to Detroit in the AL division series.

"I go out to the mound and gave him the ball and I went out to the mound and took the ball away for the last time," Torre said. "We play a game and we think how important it is until you face something like this."

Lidle had been a licensed pilot for less than a year. The 26-year-old Stanger was a veteran pilot and teacher who ran a tiny flight school in the San Gabriel Valley east of Los Angeles. Investigators have not determined the cause of the crash or who was at the controls.

At the reception, family and friends lined up outside a semitrailer for burgers from In-N-Out, the family owned Southern California chain. *AP*

Fiba to hold Beijing qualifiers in Las Vegas or San Juan

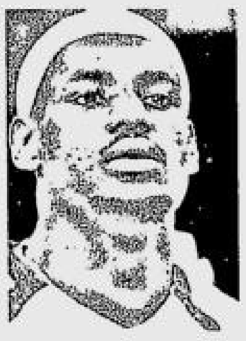
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO—THE Fiba Americas executive committee will decide on Thursday between San Juan and Las Vegas, Nevada, as host for the 2007 tournament to decide qualifiers for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

FIBA Americas announced that timetable here on Tuesday, adding that the process would not include a candidate from Venezuela, which had been slated to host the event but missed financial deadlines of the regional basketball governing body.

With reigning Olympic champions Argentina and the United States team of top National Basketball Association players trying to qualify for Beijing through the event, next August's Tournament of the Americas will have a high profile.

Venezuela did not submit a proposal to be considered a host in the new bidding process, ending a potentially troublesome situation for the US team playing in a nation whose president dubbed US President George W. Bush a devil.

US NBA players trained in Las Vegas before competing at this year's World Championship and the US gambling mecca is believed to have a well-financed bid to give the NBA standouts a homecourt edge in the Olympic qualifier.


JAMES

Ten teams will play for two berths at the 2008 Olympics and while Argentina and the US NBA stars will be favored, Puerto Rico and Brazil will be among those poised to try and fight their way into the field at Beijing.

The US NBA stars, who will be led most likely again by Cleveland Superstar LeBron James, will have a path to the Beijing Olympics even if they fail to reach the Americas final.

Teams placing third through fifth in the event will enter a qualifying tournament set to be staged in 2008 that would determine the final three nations in the 12-team Olympic tournament.

Host China and Spain, winner of the world championship last month in Japan, have already booked berths in Beijing. The US team beat Argentina for third in the world tournament. *AFP*

MIAMI Heat guard Dwyane Wade stretches on the rim before a pre-season NBA basketball game against the New Orleans/Okalahoma City Hornets in Miami, Florida. The two teams were playing at presstime. REUTERS

Federer, Safin trip Madrid tennis foes

MADRID, SPAIN—TOP-RANKED Roger Federer won his first indoor tournament match in almost a year, while fourth-ranked David Nalbandian rallied to reach the third round at the Madrid Masters on Tuesday.

Federer had 28 winners and broke Nicolas Massu three times—including twice in the final set—for the 6-3, 6-2 win, his first indoor victory on the ATP tour since a five-set loss to Nalbandian in the Masters Cup final last November.

"It's always nice to beat the Olympic champion," Federer said. "I think I played the big points better than he did. This is a good surface for my game, and it's a perfect result for the first round."

SAFIN REUTERS

Nalbandian trailed French qualifier Julien Benneteau, 5-2, in the final set before rallying with two crucial breaks for the 6-7 (4), 6-2, 7-5 win.

Former winner Marat Safin capitalized on 15 unforced errors by Jose Acasuso for a 7-6 (5), 6-7 (4), 6-3 win. The 2004 champion had five aces to beat the Argentine for the first time in three meetings.

Safin advanced to face ninth-ranked Marcos Baghdatis, while Nalbandian will play wild-card Tim Henman, who beat Spaniard David Ferrer.

Federer's round-of-16 opponent will either be Robin Soderling or former No. 1 Juan Carlos Ferrero—who eliminated the Swiss on his way to the title in 2003.

"At that time we were both fighting for No. 1 and he played really well then," Federer said of Ferrero. "I always enjoy playing against him, and any former No. 1."

Sixth-seeded Andy Roddick and No. 7 Tommy Robredo also moved into the third round.

Roddick defeated Sebastien Grosjean, 6-4, 7-6 (3), for an eighth straight time, his heavy serve forcing the Frenchman into 24 unforced errors.

"Unfortunately for Sebastien, I've played well against him," Roddick said after his first win in Madrid in three years. "But you have good days and you have bad days and I don't know if today was that great."

Robredo twice came from behind to beat Juan Ignacio Chela, 7-6 (2), 7-6 (3). Chela served for each set at 6-5, but the Spaniard, who won the Hamburg Masters in May, broke him both times to force the tiebreakers.

Among first-round matches, Dominik Hrbaty of Slovakia advanced after Gael Monfils retired with a season-ending ankle injury while leading 6-3, 2-2.

The Frenchman rolled his right ankle in the second set after celebrating a point. Monfils, who had been sidelined since the US Open with a stress fracture in his left foot, had his ankle wrapped before being taken away in a wheelchair.

Trainer Bill Norris said Monfils' sprained ankle will keep him out of action for four weeks.

In other first round matches, Swedish qualifier Joachim Johansson, Kristof Vliegen of Belgium, Frenchman Richard Gasquet, and Soderling all advanced. *AP*

'Blue Eagles were gallant in defeat'

By Francis Ochoa

EVERYTHING: FROM HIS BANK SHOT THAT bounced just a little bit too hard off the board, to the shocked faces of his teammates and the long, lonely march to the locker room.

Everything. That's what JC Intal remembers.

"I can still play back in my mind the things that happened in that last game," the high-leaping Ateneo forward told the INQUIRER, a little over two weeks after the Eagles lost "that last game."

That, of course, was Game 3 of the UAAP men's basketball finals against the University of Santo Tomas Tigers, who went on to win, 76-74, to become probably the most unexpected champion in one of the country's premier varsity tournaments.

And Intal is one of two faces Ateneo fans will remember from that match. The other is Macky Escalona, the brash and unflappable Ateneo playmaker whose faith in his team never wavered, no matter how dire the situation the Eagles found themselves mired in.

It was Escalona who bore the brunt of the offense in the early going. It was Intal who put the team on his shoulders in a valiant effort to deliver Ateneo straight past a pack of ferocious Tigers and into the winner's podium.

But something happened on the way to the title. And at the final buzzer, the two players found themselves staring at a celebratory sea of yellow. Something they never conceived of the whole season.

Couldn't imagine losing

"I just couldn't imagine that we would lose," Intal said.

"Throughout [Game 3], I never thought we would lose. Honestly," swore Escalona. "At no instance during the game did I think we would lose. Even when [the Tigers] were leading, even up to the last three-point shot by Jai Reyes [at the buzzer], I was confident that we would pull through."

"That's why it hurts so bad," he added. "This was a special team and this was supposed to be our special time."

Escalona was the hot hand throughout the match, but in the end, it was Intal whom the Eagles handed the ball to. And for a special reason.

ESCALONA

INTAL

"People keep telling me that I should have taken the last shot because I was hot the whole game," Escalona recounted. "There was a point when coach Norman [Black] and I looked at each other and he gave me the signal to take the shot at the end of regulation."

"But I told him that we should give it to JC," he added. "He carried us all season and it was just fitting that he would win it for us. I always believed that when the game goes down the line, we have to go to our best player. And that was JC."

Intal wouldn't have had it any other way. Even if the memories from the two big shots that he missed will haunt him long after talks about the recent championship would have died into whispers.

"Given the same situation, I'd still want to take that shot," he declared.

"I still can see in my mind how the shot hit the board, how it missed off the ring," Intal said. "I make that shot a lot in practice. I've made it several times in games. This time, it just didn't fall."

The shot didn't fall. The Eagles' season did. And the moment they entered their locker rooms, that's when the realization hit the team hard.

"We've been the type of team that always gets back at you once you beat us," Escalona explained.

"That's why it was hard in the locker room after," Intal chimed in. "That's when we realized that we had no more chance. We ran out of chances to bounce back."

"But I have no regrets," said Intal. "I'll always remember this season. This team has been through a lot together and we went to an overtime in Game 3 of the championship. I'll remember every second of it."

"We gave it our all," Escalona added. "There's a phrase that goes 'gallant in defeat' and I think this team embodied it."

Sherwood, Northwoods clinch Fed League semis slots

FINAL ELIMINATIONS STANDINGS (Win-Loss-Draw-Points)

Group 1: Orchard 4-1-3-12, Forest Hills 4-1-3-12, Eastridge 3-2-3-11, Wack Wack 2-5-1-5, Riviera 1-5-2-5; **Group 2**: Sherwood Hills 5-0-3-14, Southwoods 4-2-2-13, Camp John Hay 2-3-3-7, Valley 2-5-1-5, Sta. Elena 2-5-1-5; **Group 3**: Northwoods 4-2-2-13, Alabang 4-2-2-11, Canlubang 3-2-3-9, Highlands 1-3-4-6, CDC-Mimosa 2-5-1-5

SHERWOOD HILLS AND ROYAL Northwoods clinched the two automatic berths despite failing to win their last elimination round outings as defending champion Forest Hills absorbed a shock loss to Eastridge in the Federation Golf League recently.

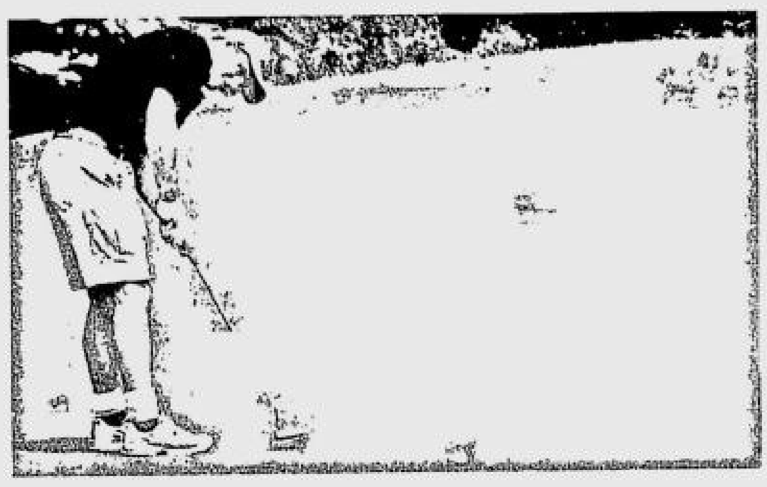
Sherwood drew with Valley, 2-2, while Northwoods bowed to Alabang, 1.5-2.5, but they still took the semis slots reserved for the top two teams in the eliminations as the third team in the running, Forest Hills, was beaten by Eastridge, 3.5-.5, in what was actually a no-bearing game for Eastridge.

The Binangonan-based Eastridge team made sure to end its campaign with a bang by dealing the Antipolo squad a third title a rare blowout loss.

Sherwood Hills and Northwoods, the 2004 champion, finished with 14 and 13 points as the top teams in Group II and Group III, respectively, at the completion of the eliminations delayed for two weeks due to damages to golf courses caused by typhoon "Milenyo."

Forest Hills was relegated to being the fifth seed in the home-and-away quarterfinal pairings against dangerous fourth seed Oct. 28-29.

Orchard, the third seed and top team in Group I, battles No. 6 Alabang in the other match.



PRO-AM: England cricketer Andrew Strauss plays a shot at the Pro-Am event of the Indian Open Asian Tour golf tournament in New Delhi, Oct. 18. England team is in India to play in the ICC Champions Trophy cricket tournament. REUTERS

S'Woods-Masters pulls away by 10

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

BAGUIO CITY—THE SCORING STAR OF THE opening round failed to count but Manila Southwoods-Masters still pulled away to a decisive Group 1 lead yesterday after 36 holes of the Camp John Hay 4th Asian Ladies Team Championship at the Camp John Hay Golf Club here.

Underscoring its depth, Southwoods again assembled the day's best output of 132 points for a 258 total and a 10-point advantage despite getting no help from Claudine Garcia, who carded a front-running 46 Tuesday.

Leading the way for Southwoods this time was Bernadette Abiera with 47 points. Sandy Velhagen contributed 43 and Connie Campos added a 42 that rendered Garcia's 37 meaningless under the four-to-play, three-to-count format.

Aguinaldo-Sampaguita, with Josie Untal accounting for the top round so far of 48 points, grabbed second place with a 248 total after rallying with 130 from 118 yesterday.

Mabel Salivio produced a 45 for Aguinaldo while Malou Belendres made 37.

Hedy See added a 47 to her opening 43 but her teammates faltered and Tagaytay Highlands 1 dropped from second to third at 232 after managing only 112 for the round.

"We played badly except for Hedy," moaned Tagaytay Highlands team captain Marilen Yaptangco, whose 34 was the squad's No. 2 score. Totelle Dimson's 31 counted as Farrah Imperial had 30.

"There's no excuse for our poor round," she added.

But it was far from a bleak day for Tagaytay Highlands as its No. 2 team also stormed away from Forest Hills with Maline Flores pacing the squad's 111 output with 42 points.

With its 216 aggregate, Tagaytay Highlands II had the Group 11 title in the bag with a 22-point advantage over Forest Hills, which had 194.

An exciting race for the Group III crown shaped up going into today's final round as Philippine Axa Life grabbed the lead with 180 points, 2 up on Baguio Country Club (178) and three ahead of World Professional Golf Teachers Association (WPGTA) from Korea (177).

"We have to be cautious and not be overconfident," said Southwoods Masters skipper Abiera, noting that her team had also lost in the past despite holding the lead going into the final round.

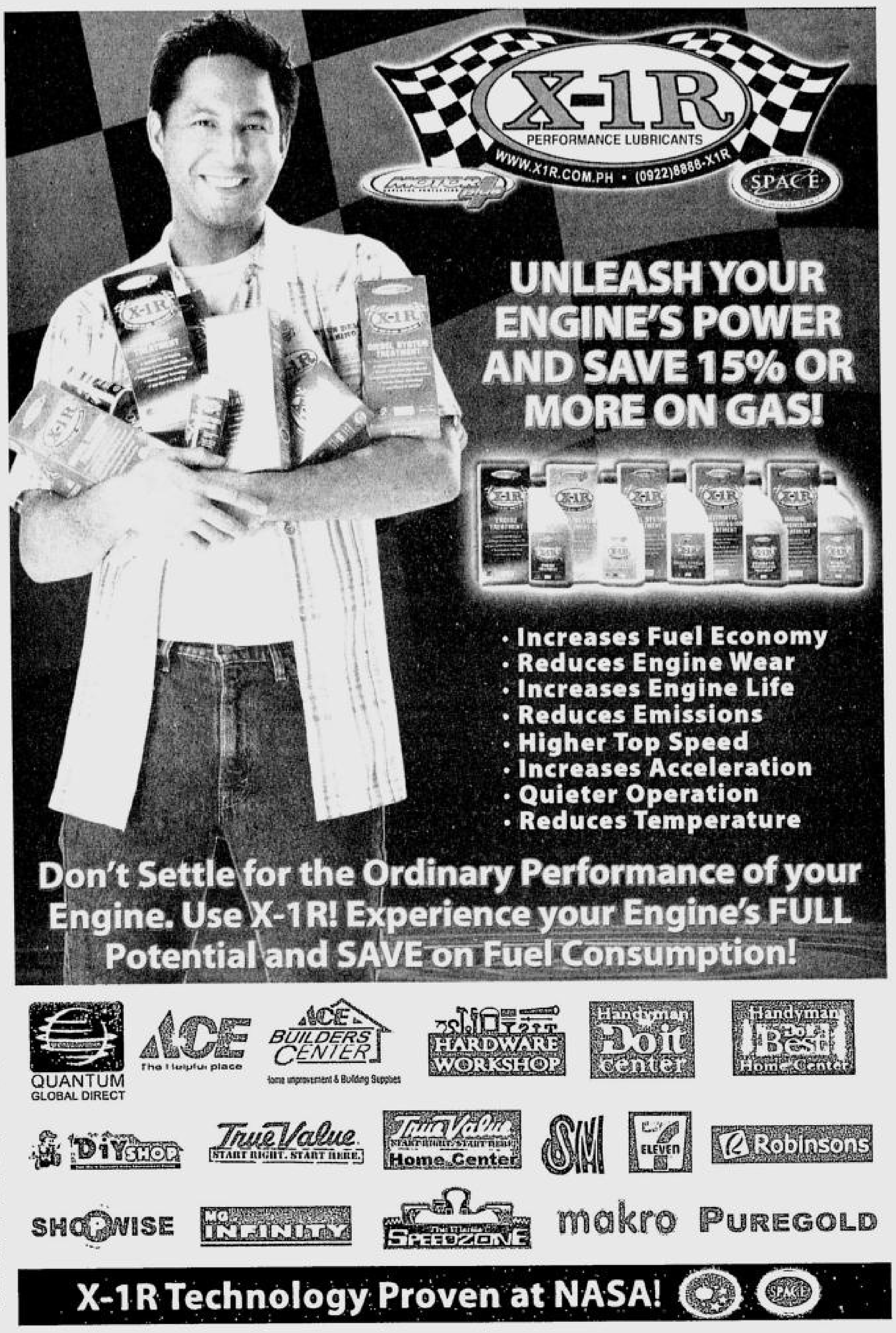
In the individual race, Jo Barredo of Villamor grabbed the lead in Group I with 91 points (43-48) with Abiera second with 89 (42-47).

See, the charming wife of a golf apparel manufacturer, paced Group II with 90 points followed by Rio Co of Sta. Elena with 89.

Mabel Salivio of Aguinaldo-Sampaguita and Sonia Bruce of Baguio Country Club led Group III with identical 86 points.

Standings after 2 rounds:

Group I—Southwoods-Masters 258; Aguinaldo-Sampaguita 248; Tagaytay Highlands 1 232; Sta. Elena 228; Camp John Hay 1 226; Forest Nicklaus 222; Forest Palmer 215; Riviera Ladies 183; **Group II**—Tagaytay Highlands II 216; Forest Hills 194; Golf Divas 188; Korean Ladies Association 188; Villamor 187; Aguinaldo Rosal 177; Camp John Hay II 177; Manila Southwoods Legends 176; Malarayat Ladies 1 169; **Group III**—Phil Axa Life 180; Baguio Country Club 178; WPGTA 177; Don Bosco Golf Team 173; Tagaytay Highlands III 167; Bloga 152; Malarayat Ladies 11 141; Aguinaldo Ilang Ilang 124.



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AXN		CSI: Miami (Season 4)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 6)		Ultimate Guinness World Records	Samsung Sports World	Beastmaster (Season I)		Maximum Exposure (Season II)		Fear Factor (Season VI)		Terminator 3: Rise Of The Machines					Lost (Season ii)
bTV				Vintage NBA		WNBA Finals: Sacramento @ Detroit G4				2006 Champs League SFinals2				NBA Access	NBA Europe Live 2006 Final Four				
Cartoon Network	My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	Dexter's Laboratory	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Max Steel/ My Gym Partner's A Monkey	Robotboy	Mirmo De Pon	Pokemon: The Johto Journey	The Justirisers	Shaman King	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Gundam Seed	Shaman King
Cinema One		Babaeng Hampaslupa				Minsan Minahal Kita				Hari Ng Yabang		Shake, Rattle & Roll 5				Sumigaw Ka Hanggang Gusto Mo			
Cinemax	Once Upon A Time In Mexico				Harper (4:20 PM)				One False Move (6:25 PM)			Wolfen				Komodo Vs Cobra (9:55 PM)			Housesitter (11:35PM)
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	Inside Middle East/ CNN Bus. Traveller/ Global Office/ Global Challenges	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Law Firm		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Psychic Detectives	Law & Order		Law & Order Special Victims Unit		Bones		Treasure Hunters		E-Ring	
Discovery Channel		Psychic Witness		Mega Moves		Dinosaur Planet		Deadliest Catch		Extreme Machines		IBM Innovation Hour		Mythbusters		Innovation On The Fast Track		Anatomy Of A Formula 1 Team	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-[illegible] Bunny	Shuriken School	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Monster Allergy	Shuriken School	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Women's Pro Billiards '06		UEFA Champions League 2006/07				MLB C'Ship Series Game6 (If Nec.)						Sportscenter Asia	MLB C'Ship Series Game7 (If Nec.)				
ETC		American Dreams		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Will & Grace	Friends	Simple Life 4	Rated On Special	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Nanny 911		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Cenacle Of Divine Mercy	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Virtue Storybook	Truth In The Heart	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	The Sacraments Through The Ages	EWTN Presents		EWTN Live (Encore) With Fr. Mitch Pacwa		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	The Seven Sacraments	Images of Mary	Behold the Man, Spirituality for Men	The Journey Home Encore	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Ang Pagbabago (3:45 PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10 PM)		Atlantika		Bakekang (8:50 PM)	Love Story in Harvard	Magpakailanman			Saksi
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F.B. Eye		McLeod's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Just Cause		Spooks		Wire In The Blood		Regenesis	
HBO		Warm Springs				Manhattan Murder Mystery				Executive Decision			New On The Big Screen In Oct	A Cinderella Story			Fallen (10:35PM)		
Hero TV	Angelic Layer	Sunny Pig	Last Exile	Mirmo de Pon	Sugar, A Little Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Gunlock	Full Metal Panic Fumoffu	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Last Exile	Fortune Quest	BBDaman Bakugaiden V	Beyblade G-Revolution	AmDriver	Angelic Layer	Yu-Gi-Oh GX
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics/ Arirs		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics/ Arirs	EBC Earth Files	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV		Smackdown				X-Men	The Batman	Experience		Mad TV		Just For Laughs	Scare Tactics	Destruction	Banzai	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Premium Blend	The Late Show David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network	Get Color	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	At Home With	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Intimate Portrait		Look For Less	Good Finds	Martha		E! True Hollywood Story		Your Private Island	Genuine Article
MTV Philippines		Handpicked Halo	VH1 All Access More Celeb Breakups		Punk'd	The Hills	MTV Hits			Get Spotted	Ultrasound Hale	TRL		Punk'd	The Hills	Diary of Nelly Furtado	Sessions Hale	VH1 All Access Celeb Showdown 2	
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX News	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Presents		MYX Bandarito	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXilog
National Geographic		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Megastructures		Naked Science		Top 5		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Wow!		Martial Arts Week		Naked Science		Hollywood Science	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Atbp			Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Siya?	Teledyaryo W/ Rey Langit & Angelique Lazo News Beat (Live)		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Equilibrium		Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	INC Chronicles (English)	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Ang Tamang Daan				OpenLine Live	Gabay Sa Kalusugan	INC Chronicles (English)	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Ang Pagbubunyag		World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Euromaxx
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	SpongeBob SquarePants	My Life As A Teenage Robot	Danny Phantom	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Romeo	As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Like Father Like Son				Huwag Kang Lumingon				Open Water				I Love You 3x A Day				Uhaw na Hayop
Qtv	Starry Night	Samurai X	Battle B-Daman	BB Daman Bakugaiden	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Winter Sonata	Irene	Emperor Of The Sea	Takeshi's Castle		Family Zoo		News On Q	Women's Desk		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Aksyon News		Complete Savages	Jake In Progress	The 4400		Medium		Cold Case		Newswatch Now	Just For Laughs	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Police Hour
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Friends Again		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports						Inside the PGA	Golf Today	Billiards: WC Pool		WPT Tour				Hoop Nation		Sportsdesk		Autofocus	
Star Movies			28 Days (3:45PM)				3 Ninjas Knuckle Up			Guess Who? (7:10 PM)				Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story			Madison (10:35PM)		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		The Apprentice		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	Hope & Faith	According To Jim	The Office	Two And A Half Men	The Drew Carey Show	Sons & Daughters	Seinfeld	Hope & Faith
Studio 23								Blog	Pinoy Dream Academy	Wazzup Wazzup	Joey	Two And A Half Men	Will & Grace	Grey's Anatomy		News Central	[illegible] (10:45PM)		MYXilog

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

POC wants to probe Go on efforts to reinstate BAP

By June Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMmittee (POC) has formed a fact-finding body to look into the alleged involvement of athletics chief Go Teng Kok in the latest moves of the Basketball Association of the Philippines to regain its membership in the Olympic body.

POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco said POC chair Robert Aventajado would head the investigative committee tasked to probe Go's alleged transactions with BAP officials regarding the organization's possible reinstatement.

Frank Elizalde, the International Olympic Committee representative to the Philippines, will also be part of the committee formed by the 11-man POC executive committee Wednesday.

"There are certain actions that need clarifications. We want to hear all sides of the story," said Aventajado. "Once I'm done with the investigation, I'll report my findings to the board."

Cojuangco and Aventajado, however, declined to divulge the possible sanctions awaiting the controversial president of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association (Patafa).

Reports have it that Go, Cojuangco's special adviser in the POC, is helping BAP officials campaign for reinstatement with the Olympic body.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Go for comment.

But for Cojuangco, accepting the BAP back into the fold is already a foregone conclusion.

"The issue of reinstating the BAP is already out of the question. The fact that they (BAP officials) have signed the communique means they already surrendered their rights to the SBP (Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas)," said Cojuangco.

The BAP was expelled from the POC family last year and has since joined hands with Pilipinas Basketball in a bid to unify basketball stakeholders and convince the International Basketball Federation (Fiba) to lift its suspension on the country.

The marriage between the BAP and the PB gave birth to the SBP, a new organization formed by the three-man panel composed of BAP president Joey Lina, PB head Bernie Atienza and business magnate Manny V. Pangilinan.

The panel was tasked to apprise the Fiba on the unification process of the BAP-PB but talks were deferred last week after Lina stepped down from the BAP and was replaced by Sen. Jinggoy Estrada. Lina charged the POC of meddling into the affairs of the SBP.

GO TENG KOK

Kaya booters nip Union in Razon Copa

KAYA BANKED ON THE HEROICS OF NAtional team captain Aly Borromeo and former RP standout Freddie Gonzales for a scrambling 4-3 win over gritty Union FC last Sunday in the Terry Razon Copa Filipina football tournament at the Philsports pitch in Pasig City.

Borromeo and Gonzales, son of the late football patron Terry Razon, conspired for all of Kaya's four goals against the Union booters, who came alive in the second half with three quick markers, only to lose steam in the homestretch.

In clash of debuting sides, Kaya earned its first triumph while dealing Union its first defeat in the event organized by the National Capital Region Football Association and supported by the Philippine Sports Commission.

Last Friday, Enerio Caligdong struck twice to pace Air Force to a 2-1 win over erstwhile unbeaten Ateneo. La Salle nipped Lion FC, 1-0, while Army had a goal each from Luisito Brillantes and Jeoffrey Lobaton to dump Far Eastern University, 2-1, in the other Sunday matches.

With the 1-2 punch of Borromeo, son of NCRFA president Pocholo Borromeo, and Gonzales leading the way, Kaya dominated the first half as they knocked in a goal each.

Borromeo, who skippered the RP squad that saw action in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games, started the ball rolling with a nifty header inside the box in the 12th minute from a precise right cross from Gonzales.

On the next scoring chance 24 minutes later, it was Borromeo's turn to return the favor. He slipped past a Union defender from the left wing for a looping pass to Gonzales, who also headed it in nearly the same spot.

A veteran of the German and Vietnam pro leagues, Gonzales wasted no time in scoring his second goal seven minutes into the second half, breaking up Union's brittle backline for a solo drive from 10 feet.

Down 0-3, Union refused to roll over and die, its persistence paying off in the 59th as Andres Gonzales saw a big gap in the Kaya defense to score virtually unmolested from 20 feet in front of the goal.

Tonichi Severino then made it 2-3 with an opportunistic goal in the 70th—a follow-up during a goalbox scramble when Kaya goalie Jay Vapor fumbled the ball.

Borromeo came to his team's rescue by providing the marginal marker in the 75th.

THAI ACE: Thailand's Paradom Srichaphan serves to Chile's Fernando Gonzalez during their match at the Madrid Masters Series. Gonzalez won, 7-5, 6-7 (5/7), 6-4. REUTERS

National Open shooting tourney fires off Nov. 4

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL SHOOTING ASsociation (PNSA) pays tribute to its late secretary general, Jose Ramon Corral, when it holds its National Open championships starting Nov. 4 at the PSC/Marine range in Ft. Bonifacio.

According to PNSA president Arturo Macapagal, competition will be conducted in rifle, pistol, shotgun and practical shooting as well as in a special event for the military, Philippine National Police and other law enforcement agencies.

For the first time in PNSA history, young and aspiring shooters will vie for honors in the airgun, trap and skeet events. Trap and skeet competition will be held at the Bucor shooting range in Muntinlupa.

Shooting officials, including pistol committee chair and national rapid fire, standard pistol and center fire pistol champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla, enjoin all shooting buffs to join and test their skills in the tourney ending on Nov. 19.

The tournament committee is composed of Col. Danilo L. Gamboa (competition director), James Chua (director, MTA) and Romeo Rivera (director, practical), while the technical committee is chaired by Gus Hustiniano with Colonel Gamboa, secretary general and VP for international affairs Donald Padilla, Emerito Concepcion, Bart Teyab, Albert Manubay, Moises Gines, Andy Maer, Jose Mari Cortez, Oscar de Leon, Jerry Sun and Orly Marquez as members.

Lions battle Bombers; UE faces Mapua

By Jasmine W. Payo

NCAA CHAMPION SAN BEDA LIONS HAVE REAsons to worry this time.

The Lions are expecting a hard-fighting Jose Rizal Bombers when they cross paths in a battle for a championship berth in their semifinal duel at 3 p.m. today at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

"They're familiar opponents, but we can't be too confident," said Lions coach Koy Banal.

The Bombers, the team the Lions blasted by an average of 22 points in the NCAA, have stunned UAAP champion Santo Tomas Tigers and NCAA powerhouse Letran Knights in the early rounds.

An upset also remains a possibility in the other Final Four battle between the University of the East Warriors and surprise semifinalist Mapua Cardinals at 1 p.m.

Seeded eighth, the Cardinals toppled top-ranked Ateneo Blue Eagles, 70-66, in the quarterfinals.

Coach Ariel Vanguardia said the Bombers, a wildcard entry, are taking the tournament quite seriously.

"Nobody expected us to win, but we've been preparing well," he said. "I think the players are starting to understand our system."

Banal thinks there have been minor lapses in the Lions' game plan despite their back-to-back victories over the National University Bulldogs and the University of Visayas Lancers.

"Every day we have to improve, that should be our mindset," he said. "There are little things we have to work on. We have to pay attention to the details."

Coach Horacio Lim, meanwhile believes the Cardinals can measure up against the favored Warriors.

"The UE players are good and they're tall, but they're not big-bodied," said Lim. "Maybe we'll capitalize on that."

GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
1 p.m.—UE vs Mapua
3 p.m.—San Beda vs JRU

Pascual tops Ateneo golfest

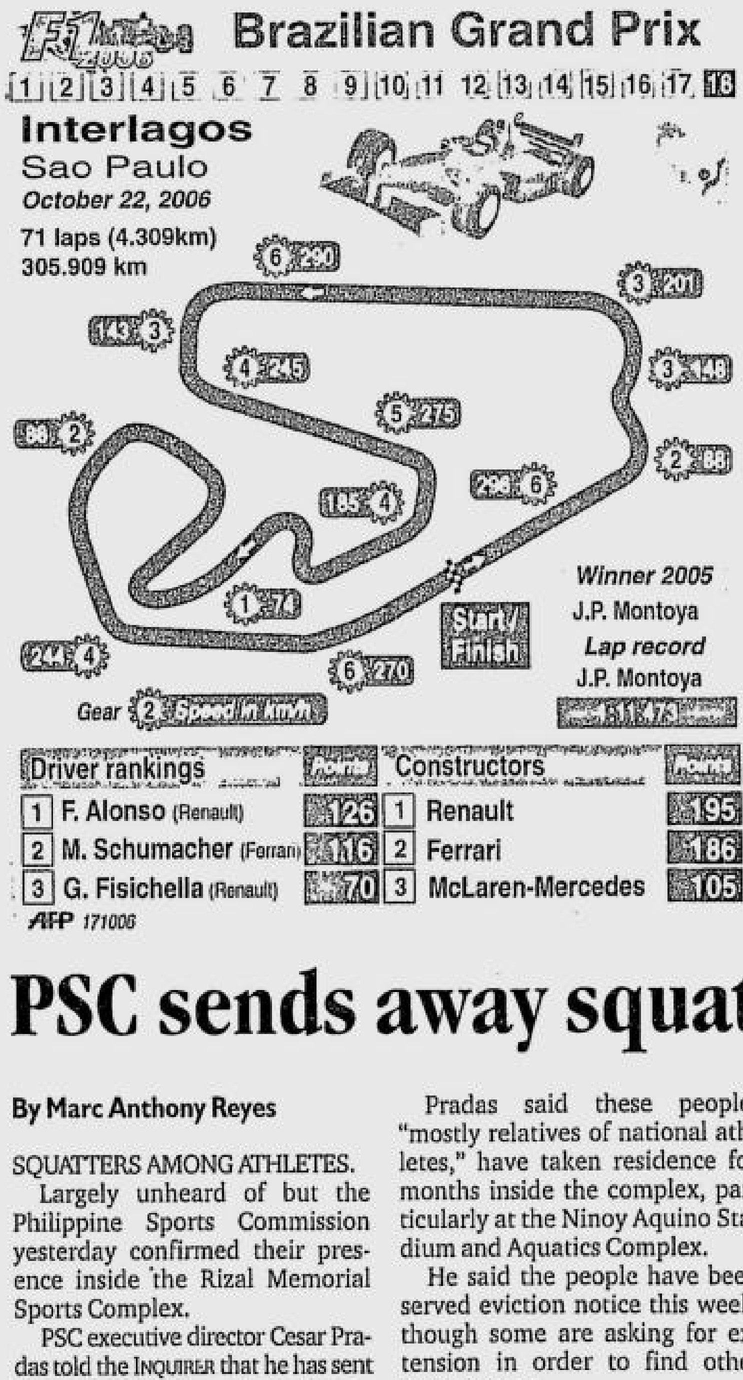
MASTER SERGEANT FELIX PAScual carded a gross 69 to emerge overall champion in the recent Ateneo de Naga University HS Class 1981 Fellowship golf tournament at the Camp Aguinaldo course in Quezon City.

Playing out of Malacañang Park, Pascual also finished with the most number of birdies (four) and longest drive at hole number 1 (255 yards) to get special awards.

Roland Kapunan, assistant manager of sponsor PCSO, topped Class A with a net 69 while Rolly Valdez, Lt. Col. Jessie Tapawan and Jopet Yatco of sponsor Target Market Communications won the Class B, C and D titles, respectively.

Presidential son Dato Arroyo led the ceremonial tee-off with rear Admiral Ludovico Franco, AFP deputy chief of staff for logistics; lawyer Pocoy Felismenio, Ringo Badilla, Ayi Torralba, Ten Manuel and Maj. Arnel Cervantes. Trophies from President Macapagal Arroyo were given to winners of the 18-hole event.

Brazilian Grand Prix



Driver rankings	Points	Constructors	Points
1 F. Alonso (Renault)	126	1 Renault	195
2 M. Schumacher (Ferrari)	116	2 Ferrari	186
3 G. Fisichella (Renault)	70	3 McLaren-Mercedes	105

Underbone races up

TOP UNDERBONE ROAD RACE riders hit the road again as they battle each other in the second leg of the 2006 Philippine Underbone King Championship Series this Sunday at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Suzuki drew the first blood behind BJ Mendoza who pulled early for an unmolested win in the 150-cc. Superstock class of this event sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa).

Mendoza is eyeing his second straight sweep over rivals Jaime Barcial, Mark Anthony Chua, John Lery Enriquez and Mark Barcial.

Yamaha, on the other hand, got the headstart in the 110-cc Superstock class behind Aaron Amani and Fil-Japanese Masato Fernando who hope to repeat their feat. Logon at www.batangasracingcircuit.com or contact Rodini Rivera or Nelson Gayola at (632) 817-2241, 729-5365 or fax 815-1241 for details.

Bata steps out...

From page A27

real worth in the World Pool Championship, a year after crashing out of the group play in Taiwan to mark his worst finish in the tournament that he won in 1999.

"I'm going to make up for that this time," he said. "Hopefully, I can bring into the tournament the string of good luck I've been having in the international circuit."

"Last year, I had a hard time because of my poor eyesight," Reyes explained. "Things will be different this time around."

Reyes had a successful laser surgery to correct his vision last October at the American Eye Center in Mandaluyong City. After that procedure, Reyes beat Mike Sigel in the finals en route to a $200,000 triumph last December in the King of the Hill in Orlando, Florida.

SPORTSWATCH

GNC, 2 others unbeaten

GNC, WILCON BUILDERS DEPOT AND MB HOTSHOTS ROUTED THEIR OPponents Saturday to raise their winning runs to four games in the elimination round of the Burlington Philippine Advocacy League (BPAL) basketball tournament at the San Andres gym in Malate. The GNC cagers led from start to finish in routing Office of the Solicitor General, 109-63, for a 4-0 record and a share of the lead in the Pilipinas Kong Mahal Division. Wilcon Builders Depot scored a 138-62 rout of Standard Chartered Bank, 138-62, to tie GNC. MB Hotshots also stayed unbeaten after four games in the Bantay Bata 163 Division by blasting Philippine Star, 97-86. In other games, Wang's Ballclub beat Wilcon Builders Supply, 136-110, to improve to 3-1 for second place behind Wilcon Depot; Burlington Bio-Fresh whipped Skynet Travel/Amadeus, 83-75 and CKP168.Com won by default over PBA Press Corps.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—My Little Africa (5), Close Account (4), Noble Principality (2), Ocean Dignity/Long Road (1)
Race 2—(Sutter's Quest (2), Astig/Harrod's Magic (5), Iron Tower (7), Kai Jason/Heading West (1)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Angel of Light (5), Money Matters (3), Moneyline (1), Tango with Me (6)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Eye Candy (1), Lucky Joe (4), I Love This Game (7), Gold Is Gold (2)
Race 5—(Cuadro de Alas (2), Gusty (7), Mary Jane Bomb/Play It Again (6), Hurry Prince (5)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Now Showing (6), Remus (4), Double Your Bet (5), Fahrenheit (2)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—U Are My Sunshine (4), Selfmade/Maximum Impact (8), Tonic Water (9), Manila's Smile (6), Elusive Quality (3)
Race 8—(Super6/Qrt/Tri)—Half Medium (11), Western Dancer (3), Court General (9), Ravishing Raffy (8), Rivaldo (10), Pivotal (6)

PSC sends away squatters at sports complex

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SQUATTERS AMONG ATHLETES.

Largely unheard of but the Philippine Sports Commission yesterday confirmed their presence inside the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

PSC executive director Cesar Pradas told the INQUIRER that he has sent away some 20 "unauthorized people" residing in secrecy at several facilities of the eight-hectare RMSC.

Pradas said these people, "mostly relatives of national athletes," have taken residence for months inside the complex, particularly at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium and Aquatics Complex.

He said the people have been served eviction notice this week, though some are asking for extension in order to find other place to stay.

"For humanitarian reasons some of them were allowed to stay until Sunday," said Pradas. "Because some of them are families of national athletes, we can't just send them in the streets."

The PSC official, however, said a handful of people will be allowed to be housed inside the venues like plumbers, electricians and pump operators.

"These are people we need in case there's a short circuit inside the complex," explained Pradas.

Last year, the RMSC was decongested when around 200 national athletes were transferred to the Philsports in Pasig where the PSC renovated their quarters.

There are several athletes who stayed there, however, to get nearer the facilities of the 70-year-old complex.

The complex, according to the PSC, is no longer fit to house a big number of people because of its old plumbing that would cost more to repair than build a new one.

CAGE MOVERS: National Basketball Conference president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla (second from right) shake hands with Quezon province team owner Mark Enverga. From left are Pagadian Mayor Sammy Co, Quezon team manager Teddy Militsala and NBC executive veep and Tagaytay Mayor Bambol Tolentino.

Dindo at helm

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

WITH A LONG list of aspirants queuing up for his post, I was starting to believe reports that Dindo Pumaren had resigned as head coach of the University of the East. Dindo swiftly denied the reports.

"I'm still coaching the Warriors in the ongoing Champions' League, aren't I?" he said over the phone yesterday, as he explained that he has no immediate plans to quit.

Yes, he is aware that there are many people who are after the job, as he cited some names, most of them UE alumni.

***

If the championship eluded Dindo in the UAAP, he might have a better chance of catching it in the Champions' League.

"We are the only UAAP team left in contention," he said.

A couple of knockout games are scheduled today to determine the finalists: UE versus Mapua and San Beda College versus Jose Rizal University.

Our conversation was going smoothly until I mentioned the name of suspended cager BonBon Custodio.

For a moment there I thought the line went dead. There was complete silence on the other end.

I got the cue. I didn't want to put him on a spot so I immediately changed the subject.

***

"Hi Beth, did you know that Japeth Aguilar won the WKU (Western Kentucky University) slam dunk contest recently?"

The text message came from Henry Abes of Gameface (www.gameface.ph), "the country's only Internet media portal for Philippine hardcore basketball."

Henry said Japeth bested fellow newcomers in the eliminations with a one-handed slam in which he put his entire forearm through the rim of the basket.

In the final round, Japeth secured the title with a baseline two-handed windmill slam.

***

It was purportedly on the Senate floor during the budget hearing last Tuesday that PSC commissioner Butch Ramirez promised Sen. Jinggoy Estrada—who was installed as BAP president the following day—that he would reopen the BAP offices at the Rizal Memorial Complex in Vito Cruz.

On Ramirez's word, Jinggoy immediately announced the good news to his constituents and the press. That Ramirez would not honor his word was completely unimaginable.

To Jinggoy's utter embarrassment, this is exactly what happened.

It would be very interesting to see what will happen in the next Senate budget hearing.

***

This report needs verification.

I got a phone call yesterday from a basketball official who gave me the tip that a well-known sports personality supposedly employed as a high-ranking official of an academe is actually no longer connected with the school, although he makes it appear that he still is.

He has been dismissed by the academe, on account of missing funds, so I was told.

This person is very much in the news these days and if the report is true, he is definitely guilty of misrepresentation.

***

Congratulations to La Salle Greenhills which has just completed a grand slam, winning three championships in a row in a matter of weeks: SBP Passerelle (coached by Hubert de los Santos), Prada Midgets (coached by Richus Mendoza) and Prada Juniors (coached by Marvin Bienvenida).

GOOD MOVE: Hiroyuki Tomita of Japan competes on the horizontal bar during the men's team finals at the Arena in Aarhus, Oct. 17, at the 39th Artistic Gymnastics World Championships in Denmark. AFP

RP Olympic Festival to draw 10,000 bets

By June Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE has found a perfect breeding ground for the next generation of athletes.

The Olympic body yesterday launched the second edition of the Philippine Olympic Festival, a multidiscipline event designed to discover raw talents on the countryside to boost the country's buildup for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

"With so many untapped talents in the countryside, we are confident we'll discover other potential champions during the festival," said POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco. "This is the step that will bring us to the level that we can be internationally competitive."

Gathering more than 10,000 athletes and officials representing 30 disciplines, including 18 Olympic sports, the POF kicks off in Mindanao in January next year, the first of five regional legs where the medal winners clash in a national championship.

Lanao Del Norte takes the tab for Mindanao on Jan. 8-14 while other divisional legs will be held in Antique City (Jan. 22-28), Camarines Sur (Feb. 5-11), Ilocos Sur (Feb. 26-March 4) and the National Capital Region (March 19-25). The national championships will be in Nueva Ecija tentatively scheduled in April.

The POC has joined hands with Globe Telecoms, the International Management Group and the local government units of each region to make the endeavor possible.

"The POF will give our sports system a sense of direction with the POC and the LGUs taking an active role in identifying talents," said POC chair Robert Aventajado.

He explained that once a potential athlete is identified, the POC will come up with the program for athlete development financially supported by the Olympic Solidarity Movement, the POC and the private sector.

"While we are already preparing for the SEA Games and the Beijing Olympics, the POF also has set its sights on the development of potential medalists for the London Olympics in 2012," said Aventajado.

According to Cojuangco, LGUs have a total budget allocation for sports of about P5 billion from the government and, if used in a rational manner, could help find potential talents.

Events on tap are table tennis, taekwondo, athletics, baseball, boxing, shooting, basketball, archery, wrestling, cycling, football, lawn tennis, judo, fencing, canoe-kayak, gymnastics and equestrian. The non-Olympic sports are dance sports, sports climbing, karatedo, muaythai, chess, wushu, sepak takraw, pencak silat, powerlifting, golf, bowling and arnis. More than 6,000 athletes and officials from 28 sports took part in the first POF staged last June.

Ortiz leads chess bets

GABRIEL ORTIZ AND YVES FIEL BANNER the 48-player field vying for top honors in the grand finals of the 2006 Shell National Youth Active Chess Championships slated Oct. 21-22 at SM City North Edsa in Quezon City.

Although they failed to rule their respective divisions in the qualifiers, Ortiz and Fiel still emerged the top seeded players in their respective divisions heading into the culmination of this nationwide search for juniors and kiddies champions.

Ortiz, playing out of University of Cebu, finished third in the Central Visayas leg in Cebu topped by West Negros College's Eric Abanco with Venancio Loyola of Ramon Duterte National Memorial High School-Cebu taking the runner-up honors in the 20-year-old juniors division.

Fiel, a mainstay of University of San Jose-Recoletos-Cebu, placed second to Jerich Cajeras of Escalante Central Elementary School-Negros Occidental in the 14-under kiddies category.

Peñalosa replaces Jaca in Hoya card

Salven L. Lagumbay

PEÑALOSA

FORMER WBC SUPERFLY champ Gerry Peñalosa will be included in the pay-per-view telecast of an Oscar De la Hoya event this Sunday, following the cancellation of the WBO featherweight clash between Filipino Jimrex Jaca and reigning champ Juan Manuel Marquez.

Peñalosa will battle Panama's ex-WBO bantam champ Mauricio 'Nanara' Martinez in a 10-round showdown at the Don Haskins Center in El Paso, Texas.

Daniel Ponce De Leon will defend his WBO super bantam strap against American Al Seeger in the main event.

Peñalosa (50-5-2, 33 KOs), who left yesterday for El Paso, Texas, has been training for several weeks at the Wild Card Gym in Los Angeles, and will be seeing action for the first time under his new promotional outfit Golden Boy Promotions, which signed him up for a seven-fight deal and $5,000 signing bonus.

The 31-year-old Martinez (31-6-1, 21 KOs) holds the WBO Latino bantamweight title, and lost only once in his last 13 fights.

Over 6,000 runners eyed for Milo leg

MORE THAN 6,000 RUNNERS ARE EXpected to join when Tacloban City hosts the National Milo Marathon on Sunday, right in front of the historic Provincial Capitol of Leyte.

Now on its 30th year, the country's biggest and longest-running foot race offers more than P159,000 in cash prize as well as trophies and medals to the top 10 finishers in each racing event.

The centerpiece race of this Sunday's major event in Eastern Visayas is the 21K qualifying race, where the top three finishers in the men's and women's divisions earn slots to the national finals slated Dec. 10 in Metro Manila.

Among the early favorites are reigning titlist Dionisio Belmonte of Ormoc City and 2003-2004 winner Edgar Lapasigue of Catbalogan, Samar.

Albert Paculdo, Jonathan Belmonte, Gilbert Luterte and Roy Patindol, meanwhile, can pull the rug from under the two favored runners.

Veteran Camila Luterte is favored in the distaff side but young runners like Angela Catimpohan, Jenny Rose Tegio, Jenelyn Suan and Genevive Colana are out to make the race more exciting.

Congresswoman Remedios Petilla and Gov. Carlos Jericho Petilla have been invited by local organizer Neil Baronda to grace the occasion with Representative Petilla firing the starting gun in front of the capitol which became the seat of the Philippine Commonwealth from Oct. 23, 1944 to Feb. 27, 1945.

The 30th Milo Marathon has an unprecedented 30 legs for 2006. On Oct. 29, the race will be held in San Fernando, La Union.

Supporting local organizer Neil Baronda are the Tacloban PNP for traffic and security, PNRC, the City Government Rescue Team, the BFP Emergency Management Service for medical and emergency, and the Access Inc. for race monitoring.

Milo Sports Events Executive Pat Goc-ong is advising participants to be at the starting area not later than 5 a.m. for pre-race briefings and check in. National Milo Marathon organizer Rudy Biscocho is advising participants to wear the Milo T-shirts given to them upon registration.

SPORTSWATCH

Jao seeks 5th sweep

DEFENDING CHAMPION JOLET JAO OF SHELL Advance-Kawasaki hopes to continue his winning streak in the fifth leg of the 2006 Shell Advance Superbikes Series-San Mig Coffee Road Racing Championship this Sunday at the Batangas Racing Circuit. Following his fourth straight sweep in the last leg, Jao firmed up his hold of solo lead with 200 points and moved closer to his goal of clinching his 10th superbikes crown with a perfect season of winning all the races in this event sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa). But his archrival Benjo Mendoza of Speedeffex could still stand in his way if he wins all four races in the last two legs as he is just 24 points behind with 176. It's also an exciting battle for third place overall between Rod Chua and Wacky del Rosario. Completing the field are John Diego, Randy Ortiz, Julian Goitia and Bernard Mendoza. Log on at www.batangasracingcircuit.com or call BRC operations manager Rodini Rivera or Nelson Gayola at (632) 817-2241, 729-5365 or fax 815-1241.

Fastest Win today

A NEW FORMAT OF FASTEST WIN ONE-COCK ULUtan fires off at Las Piñas Coliseum starting at 10 a.m. today with more than 50 fights on tap. The first, second and third fastest win champions will be selected after every five fights and will receive P5,000, P3,000 and P2,000, respectively, said hosts Rolly Mula, Julius Canumay and Super Mario group. Meanwhile, Marlon de Castro topped the special 4-stag derby at LPC on Oct. 15, when his DMC entry tallied a perfect score of four points. Up next is the big-time 5-stag derby of Gerry Ramos on Nov. 2. For details, contact 874-3910, 873-1040 and 0926-7450375 (Julius).

Tan heads breeder race

AFTER A SOLO CHAMPIONSHIP ON TUESDAY'S 5-stag derby at Araneta Coliseum, Pangasinan breeder Romy Tan vaulted into the top spot of Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) Gamecock Breeder of the Year race. Tan's JF Nikki entry leads the pack with 12.5 points. The third batch of competitors will compete today also at Araneta Coliseum beginning at 1 p.m. with 93 matches scheduled. The "straight five stags" format will be adopted anew, said LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz. Meanwhile, the LGBA Grand Championship 5-stag derby will be held on Nov. 7 at Araneta Coliseum. Those who are listed in the NFGB Bakbakan 9–stag derby may join the eliminations on Oct. 23 (Araneta) and Nov. 4 (San Juan Coliseum). For details, call 911-2928 and 911-3101.

THE PREXY AND BOXER: Brazilian president and candidate for reelection Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (left) with boxer Acelino Popo de Freitas during a campaign rally in Rio de Janeiro Oct. 17. AP

2 Taguig jins snare golds

TAGUIG CITY JINS WILMORE SALDO AND Maria Jessica Elona stole the show in the recent Petron national age group taekwondo championships by winning a gold medal each in the mid-junior men's and women's divisions at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Saldo beat Olympia's Terrence Romero to rule the bantam/feather class in the men's advance group while Elona topples UE's Mayrene Mendez to bag the women's advance feather gold.

The other mid-junior advance gold medalists were (men) Allen Neil Lim, San Sebastian, fin; Nicodemus Ramos, Powerkick, fly; Clyde Dexter Lozano, Letran, light; and Jaimie Pablo, Las Piñas, welter/middle.

Women—Camille Acudili, Olympia, fin; Leigh Ann Nuguid, Silang Taekwondo, bantam; and Ynah Langit, Centro, welter/middle/heavy.

The mid-junior men's novice topnotchers were Ryan Osoyo, D'Club, fin; Dante Villegas, Body Shape, fly; Stephen Jhamboy, Elizabeth Seton School, bantam; Jiad Arroyo, Superbodies, feather; Ben John Grejalde, Laguna, gold; and Djon Mar Liz Santiago, MHDP, welter/middle.

Top honors in the women's mid-junior novice class went to Analyn dela Peña, Powerkick, fly/bantam; Ana Ruth Rivera, MHDP, feather; Honey Argate, Hwarang Do, light/welter; and Joy Hereshey Pereche, Discovery Ruiz, middle/heavy.

Cycling Search: Carrera snatches victory

SHERWIN CARRERA OF JAZZY SPORTSWEAR struck while current overall leader Sherwin Diamsay of Hubert Hubs & Wheels and Victor Espiritu of Philippine Army were busy watching one another's back to rule the third leg of the 4th Cycling Search Invitational criterium race before another huge crowd in Marikina City over the weekend.

The 21-year-old Carrera broke away early with a six-man main pack that also included Bernard Luzon of San Leonardo, Lloyd Reynante and Dante Cagas of Sustagen-GHQ-HSC and Armymen Merculio Ramos and Joel Dueñas and that stuck like glue from start to finish in the race that started and ended at the back of the Blue Wave mall.

But the 5-foot-11 Carrera wisely saved his energy for the last lap, which is worth 10 points, outsprinting Luzon in a furious wind-up to claim stage honors in the third of a 10-stage cycling spectacle presented by Philpost.

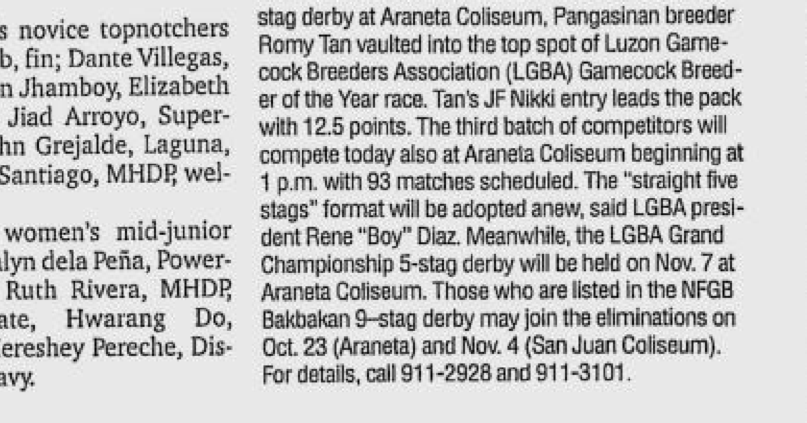
Carrera earned 28 points to bring his total to 46 and climb to third overall behind Diamsay and Reynante, who improved two notches from fourth overall.

Espiritu, last year's overall champion, chose to stick it out with a huge second wave that also included Diamsay and the entire Hubert Hubs & Wheels squad, allowing teammates Ramos and Dueñas the chance to mix it up with the lead pack.

But that strategy allowed five riders to overtake him, including first leg winner Rodolfo Malangsa, who slipped to fourth overall behind Carrera.

Enrique Domingo again ruled the masters category, adding 49 points yesterday for a 126 total, with Placido Vladez, who again placed second in the third leg, a far second overall with 98.

In the elite category, Stephen Romaquin of Excellent Jonchi took stage honors worth 27 points for a total of 62.



MULTITITLIST: Young Douglas Maningding bagged four titles in the ninth leg of the Race Motorsports Club National Slalom Grand Prix 2006 recently at the Festival Mall in Alabang. Only 12, Maningding bested veteran rivals in clinching the titles in the Open A, Open B, Novice Prototype and the Novice Modified C divisions. Older brother Uly, on the other hand, captured the Overall and Production Best Time of the Day with 50.91 seconds.

ROCK FACE-OFF

Colt 45 Rockista Final Leg Yields 2 Finalists Instead Of One: 11 Amateur Vocalists To Vie For P450,000 & A Recording Contract

Alvine Kristine Orca
Co-winner
DRINK MODERATELY

Thirty thousand screaming spectators witnessed a rock duel in the last leg of Colt 45 Rockista on MTV at the SM Mall Of Asia last October 14.

What originally was supposed to be a contest for ONE finals slot yielded TWO winners as amateur vocalists Alvine Kristine Orca and Bojo de Dios bested 8 other hopefuls in the South Manila Regional Finals - the last in the nationwide elimination leg - which also featured performances by the hottest rock bands like Pupil, Chicosci, Stonefree, Soapdish, Fuse, and Colt 45 endorser Bamboo.

Garnering identical overall scores, Orca and de Dios each performed a face-off song that hoped to break the tie. But due to their overwhelming talent and rock mettle, judges Jimmy Jam of RGMA, Twinky Lagdameo of MTV, and Myra "Skarlet" Ruaro of Brownbeat All-Stars named both as winners. Thus, they each pocketed P10,000 and earned the right to continue their quest to become the country's next rock icon by entering the finals dubbed Colt 45 Rockista on MTV: Judgment Day.

Orca and de Dios were later introduced together with the 9 other finalists in a special MTV segment hosted by VJ Model Faith Amigo.

Colt 45 Rockista on MTV : Judgment Day airs every Monday beginning October 23 at 8 p.m. on Channel 41 for UHF, Channel 22 for Sky Cable, and Channel 29 in Cebu and Davao.

Replays air Wednesdays at 12 noon and Fridays at 11p.m. Hosts are Raimund Marasigan of Sandwich and Faith Amigo.

Bojo de Dios
Co-winner
Colt 45

Colt 45
RocKistA
ON MTV
MUSIC TELEVISION

IN THIS ISSUE

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A new record has been set on just one full tank of Petron Xtra Unleaded.

Expanded VAT nets ₱48.4B in Jan.-Aug.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo confers with Trade Secretary Peter Favila on her way to the 8th CEO forum of the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc. at the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City where she is the guest of honor. LYN RILLON

Keeps gov't on track in meeting 2006 target

By Michelle V. Remo

THE EXPANDED VALUE-ADDED TAX LAW HELPED RAISE P48.4 billion in additional revenues from January to August, surpassing the P45.8-billion target set by revenue authorities for the eight-month period and so far keeping the government on track to meet its fiscal reform goals.

The ability of the government to raise the entire P75 billion in additional revenues this year from the implementation of the expanded VAT, considered the centerpiece of the Arroyo administration's fiscal reform agenda, is closely being monitored by market analysts and credit-rating firms.

The implementation of the expanded VAT, an unpopular measure that went through rough sailing in Congress, helped the Philippines get a "positive" outlook from credit-rating firms. Realizing the expected revenue gains from the tax measure for the whole year, however, has more weight in helping the Philippines get an elusive upgrade in its credit rating.

The VAT law basically expanded the coverage of the impost to include, among others, oil and electricity, and raised the tax rate to 12 percent from 10 percent. The law also raised the corporate income tax rate to 35 percent from 32 percent.

Documents from the Department of Finance showed that of the P48.4 billion in additional revenues collected in the first eight months of the year, the Bureau of Customs accounted for P36.6 billion, exceeding its P34.9-billion target.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue contributed P11.8 billion, also higher than its target of P10.9 billion.

The BIR imposes the VAT on goods produced and services rendered locally while Customs charges the tax on imports.

"This (revenue realized from the VAT) is very important because the law provides that 30 percent of the collection (this year) should be allocated to infrastructure and social services," Fi-

EXPANDED/ B2

Cebu Pac outgrows mart, now top domestic airline

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE COUNTRY'S LEADING BUDGET carrier has become the top domestic airline in terms of having the most number of passengers, operating the most number of flights, and reaching the most number of local destinations.

For the month of September, Cebu Pacific's total passenger load jumped 108 percent year-on-year while that of the market grew 40 percent.

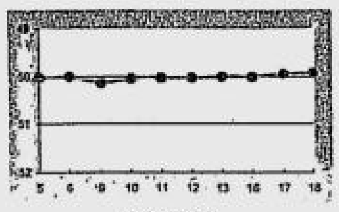
Airport traffic figures showed that Cebu Pacific flew to 20 local destinations and operated 624 one-way flights a week. Philippine Airlines was second with 494 flights in 19 destinations, followed by Asian Spirit with 358 flights in 17 destinations and Air Philippines with 250 flights in 12 destinations.

Cebu Pacific also operated 24 routes in its domestic network compared with PAL's and Asian Spirit's 18 and Air Philippines' 15.

The latest market share report covering the period Oct. 1-15 showed that overall, Cebu Pacific's better performance translated to a domestic market share of 45 percent, up 4 percent from July, and ahead of PAL's by a percentage point.

Cebu Pacific president and CEO Lance Gokongwei said the end-September and early October reports showed that the airline has not only outgrown the market but that there was enough demand for the airline to consider adding more routes.

CURRENCIES



OCTOBER

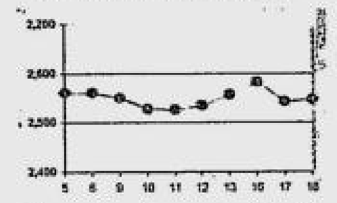
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 49.930 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 18, 2006

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close higher

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.12-PERCENT higher yesterday as last-minute bargain-hunting pushed the market out of negative territory where it loitered for most of the session amid a lack of fresh leads, dealers said.

The composite index added 3.05 points to 2,546.53, after hitting a low of 2,523.33. The broader all-shares index rose 5.51 points to 1,571.47.

Gainers led losers 52 to 38, with 56 unchanged. Turnover totaled 2.03 billion shares worth P2.37 billion.

"The market was quite sluggish because of the lack of positive fresh leads and there was no foreign buying," said Leonardo Arguelles of Unicapital Securities Inc.

"This is a good time to buy on weakness

SHARES/ B2

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HK firm tapped to prepare master plan for Boni project

Development of Metrobank, BCDA lots in Global City

FEDERAL LAND INC., THE REAL ESTATE subsidiary of banking giant Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. (Metrobank), has tapped Hong Kong-based Hellmuth, Obota and Kassabaum (HOK) International Ltd. to prepare the master plan for the development of a 25-hectare property at the northern part of the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

In a statement, Federal Land said the master plan would cover a 10.4-hectare property owned by Metrobank and two lots with total size of 15.3 hectares which are held by state-owned Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA).

"We expect the plan to be completed in 15 weeks," said Federal Land president Alfred Ty.

The company, however, could not immediately provide estimates on the cost of the development.

Ty said engaging HOK International Ltd. was in line with the agreement between Metrobank and the BCDA. This agreement also called for Federal Land to spearhead the project.

HOK International Ltd. provides planning, architecture, interior design, engineering and consulting services for the construction and development of hospitality, residential, education, health care and corporate facilities.

For the Fort Bonifacio project, it will be assisted by local planning consultant Environ Systems Groups Inc.

"We are confident that this project will maximize the values of the properties of both Metrobank and BCDA, and ensure that the development in the northern part of Fort Bonifacio will be aligned with the redesigned concept of the Bonifacio Global City," Ty added.

BCDA vice president for Business Development Aileen Zosa said that upon the completion of the master plan, the BCDA could already start the bidding process for its 15.3-ha property.

"We are looking at the first quarter of 2007 for the bidding and privatization of our property," said Zosa.

This project will form part of Federal Land's P5-billion capital expenditure budget for next year.

Ty told the INQUIRER that Federal Land had increased its budget for next year from P3 billion this year as it was expecting more opportunities in the property sector during the period.

This year, the company started constructing two new towers for each of its residential condominium projects Bay Garden in Pasay City and Marquinton Residences in Marikina.

Next year, it hopes to further expand its Marikina residential cluster and start new projects in Makati and Quezon City.

Lobby dovey

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

WORD IS OUT THAT A WELL-FUNDED group is pursuing a lobby all the way to Malacañang for foreign airlines to get their own version of "license to kill."

Under their low-keyed but relentless lobby, all this cute administration of Gloriaetta must do—in the name of "liberalization" and "globalization"—is to give just about any foreign airline all the licenses it may want to operate unlimited numbers of flights between a "third" country and the Philippines and, as cherry on the icing, to allow it to operate all the domestic flights it wants anywhere in the country.

That, from what I heard, is the idea of the lobby group on how to make this cute administration lovey-dovey with foreign investors. Is Gloriaetta biting?

Well, such a brilliant idea has never been implemented in any country, rich and poor alike, throughout the history of the world. This is a fact!

If we implement the bright idea, it should only spell doom for the struggling local airlines—and not just the national flag carrier PAL, which is owned by tobacco magnate Lucio Tan, the taipan whom some of the well-known figures in the lobby group just love to hate.

The lobby group, which I heard is headed by a former Cabinet official, must be out to kill the domestic aviation industry. Not just PAL, okay! Asian Spirit, watch out!

Minus the aviation jargon, all the lobby group asks for are the so-called 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 7th freedom rights for all foreign airlines.

Okay, for the sake of our movie stars in the Senate, those rights mean that a Singapore-based airline, for instance, can pick up passengers not only in Singapore but also from a "third" country like Thailand, then bring them to Manila, then fly them from Manila to Cebu and from there, to Boracay—plus the roundtrips.

The group supposedly even submitted a draft of an executive order to implement its beautiful plan. In the draft, it seems that the initial targets are roundtrip flights for foreign airlines between any "third" country and the airports in Subic or Clark and, as a bonus, for them to continue the flight between Subic and Clark.

But the proposal supposedly also includes a draft of the "implementing rules" for the draft executive order. The rules should expand licenses to "any point" or "points" in the Philippines, such as Laoag City, which is now a favorite destination of casino-loving "tourists" from both China and Taiwan.

In effect, the lobby group wants Gloriaetta to change her mind again. Only last August, the President issued EO 500-A, which allowed the grant of "unilateral" licenses to foreign airlines for flights between their home countries and either Clark or Subic.

"Unilateral" what? Well, the home country of the foreign airline does not have to give the same privileges to our airlines—now or in the future. You know, it's a one-way street!

Now the lobby group wants the whole pie. Talk in business town has it that the lobby group already succeeded in pushing for its, er, "cause" up to the Cabinet-level core group that worked on the "competitiveness" program of Gloriaetta.

Still, everything is all up to Gloriaetta at this point. Whether or not she will have a part in the murder of the local aviation sector remains to be seen.

* * *

HIS COMPANY—or maybe his "former" company—just filed five cases of estafa against businessman Cesar Quiambao.

If the name sounds familiar, it's because Quiambao is the former president, CEO, and treasurer—all rolled into one—of the Star Infrastructure Development Corp. or SIDC.

"Star" apparently stands for the "Southern Tagalog Arterial Road," the tollway extension of the SLEX (South Luzon Expresssway), connecting Sto. Tomas town and Lipa City. You know—the "short cut" going to Batangas!

Now, the government actually paid for the construction of the Star tollway. It then hired the company of Quiambao, or SIDC, to collect the toll, on condition that SIDC will build the tollway all the way to Batangas City, where we have the international port.

Sure, Quiambao and company collected the toll, but he forgot to build the road—not even single inch of it.

Question: If the allegation is proved to be true before the courts, can the government go after Quiambao to recover the funds? Well, that is certainly the people's money, all the tolls we paid to Quiambao et al. over the years, since SIDC had no other income than the tolls in Star.

Now, in the estafa cases, Quiambao's own company SIDC alleged that he siphoned off corporate funds of about P100 million. In one case, SIDC alleged that Quiambao (as CEO, president and treasurer) issued checks for "golf tournament expenses" worth P2.3 million, which were payable to "cash" and which were later withdrawn by people who had the same surname of Quiambao.

Another allegation: Quiambao released P46 million to a firm called Sahi, or Strategic Alliance Holdings Inc., which, according to SIDC, is also owned by Quiambao, although Sahi and SIDC never had any business dealing.

By the way, the same Sahi of Quiambao, together with an Indian group, is bidding for the failed water concession of Maynilad, which was given up by the previous operator Benpres, a holding company of the Lopez group.

Okay—it is possible that Quiambao's Sahi, despite its low capitalization, can do a better job than the Lopez empire in running Maynilad. But what is the track record of this Quiambao in government contracts?

I do remember a special report (yes, in this same newspaper) about three computerization contracts, worth more than P10 billion in all, which were done by a company called Stratdcom, which was also owned and controlled by Quiambao.

Those were the computerization projects of the Land Transportation Office, the Land Registration Authority, and the Department of Foreign Affairs, which up to today are not fully running—at least not according to the original specs.

The Commission on Audit even recommended that those offices should stop paying Stratdcom for services it never delivered. That kind of track record!

Court asked to order issuance of CAP license

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

COLLEGE ASSURANCE PLAN Philippines Inc. (CAP) said the Makati Regional Trial Court has the authority to compel the Securities and Exchange Commission to give the pre-need firm's license back, the company said in a memorandum sent yesterday to the Makati court.

CAP legal counsel Gilbert Reyes said this was in compliance with an order of Branch 149 Judge Cesar Untalan requiring parties involved in the company's rehabilitation case to submit a memorandum on whether the court has the authority to order the SEC to issue CAP a license and to amend contracts without the consent of the creditors.

CAP said Section 23 Rule IV of the interim rules on corporate rehabilitation allowed the court to issue such orders to ensure the immediate and successful implementation of a rehabilitation plan.

The company said the purpose of rehabilitation proceedings was to determine whether a debtor-corporation could still be revived to operate as a going concern or should be liquidated to cut losses.

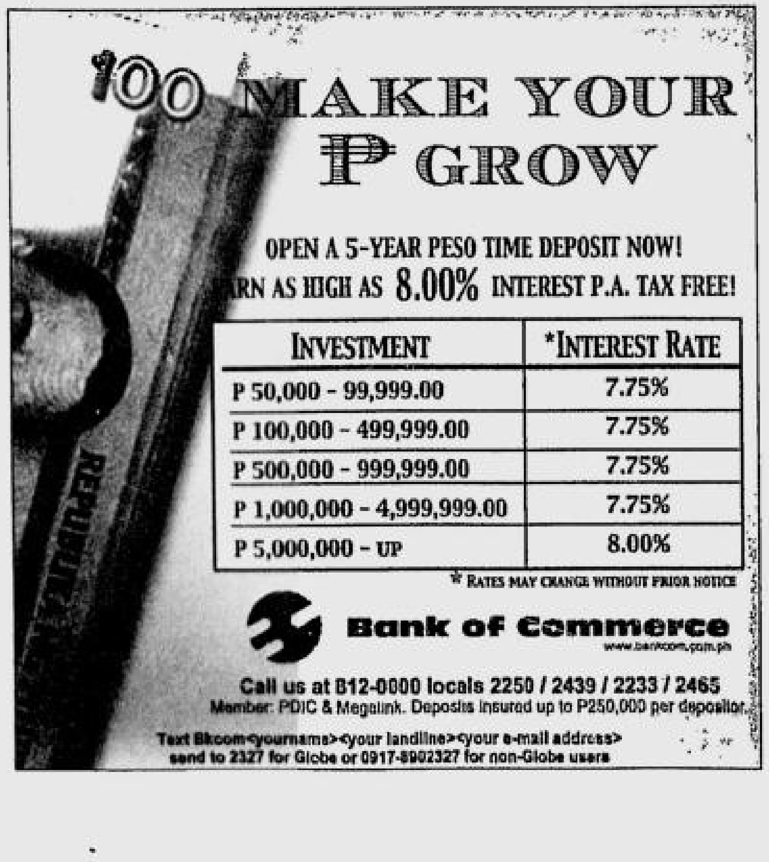
"In accordance with this purpose, a rehabilitation court must necessarily be empowered to issue and implement orders and processes to ensure the implementation of the approved rehabilitation plan or, as the case may be, the liquidation of a debtor corporation," CAP said in the memorandum.

It also said the court's jurisdiction over rehabilitation cases and its power to approve rehabilitation plans included the issuance of relevant orders to ensure the plans' implementation.

CAP said the court approval of its rehabilitation plan would only pave the way for the restructuring of its obligations to plan holders and creditors, and would not result in the resumption of its regular business operations.

CAP said it needed to secure proper permits and licenses from the SEC before it could resume selling plans. However, it claimed that the SEC had made known its intention to deny any such application.

CAP said the issuance of its dealer's license was crucial to the company because it was a condition set by its prospective investors.



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Expanded VAT . . .

From page B1

nance Secretary Margarito Teves said in a statement.

Teves said it was crucial for the BIR and Customs to generate the expected revenue gains from the implementation of the VAT to justify to Congress any other possible revenue-raising proposals for legislation in the future.

He said the executive branch was not poised to push for more tax measures for legislation anytime soon, except for the bills on the rationalization of fiscal incentives and income tax reform that are pending in Congress. Additional tax measures, if needed, would have to come after attaining the expected revenues gains from existing reforms like the expanded VAT.

Shares close higher

From page B1

as eventually the market will be moving up especially toward the latter part of the year," he added.

Dealers said investors generally remained bullish toward the equity market amid improvements in the country's economic fundamentals and the government's fiscal performance, strengthening its chances of getting a credit rating upgrade soon from international credit rating agencies.

The government had announced that it slipped into a budget deficit again in September after posting surpluses in four of the last five months, as it spent more to ensure economic growth.

But the Department of Finance said the budget gap of P50.4 billion the first nine months of the year was less than half of the government's target ceiling for the period. *AFP*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 18, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	131,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	40	40	39.5	40	4,201,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	55	55	54	55	4,033,200
China Banking Corp.	650	680	650	680	1,110
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.4	5,960,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	65.5	65.5	64.5	64.5	286,200
Phil. Savings Bank	41	45	41	45	1,100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.5	15,300
Security Bank Corp.	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5	900
Union Bank of the Phil.	45	45	45	45	3,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
ATR Kimeng Fin. Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	1,000
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	4.45	4.45	4.3	4.35	1,128,000
First Abacus Financial	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	100,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1600	1600	1600	1600	1,270
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	105,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	235	235	235	235	10,900
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1945	1955	1945	1955	360
Ivantage Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1,193,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	50.5	50.5	50	50.5	556,500
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	50	50.5	50	50.5	333,500
Manila Electric Co. A	25.5	26.5	25.5	26.5	264,700
Manila Electric Co. B	32	33	32	32.5	841,600
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.2	9.2	9.1	9.1	676,000
Petron Corp.	4.1	4.1	4	4	2,707,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	400,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1	1	0.99	0.99	740,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.25	3.3	38,000
Bogo Medellin Milling Co.	18	18	18	18	600
CADP Group Corp.	2.38	2.38	2.38	2.38	15,000
Cen Azucar De Tarlac	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	5,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	22.25	22.25	22.25	22.25	26,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	39	40	39	40	364,000
Pancake House Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	3,000
RFM Corp.	1.08	1.14	1.06	1.12	3,138,000
Roxas Holdings, Inc.	3.55	3.75	3.55	3.75	708,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.39	0.4	0.37	0.37	1,600,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65.5	66	65.5	66	308,800
San Miguel Corp. B	74	74	72.5	73	171,800
Universal Robina Corp.	18.75	19.25	18.5	19	1,939,700
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.37	0.45	0.37	0.43	80,890,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	2.42	2.55	2.42	2.55	3,314,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.8	2	1.8	1.98	1,046,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.7	3,246,000
Republic Cement Corp.	2	2.22	2	2.18	1,038,000
CHEMICALS					
Chemrez Technologies, Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.6	774,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.64	0.66	0.63	0.65	45,660,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.16	0.18	0.16	0.175	59,790,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.21	0.3	0.21	0.3	40,000
Ayala Corp.	480	485	480	482.5	949,220
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.58	0.6	0.58	0.59	810,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.8	1,083,000
Ajo.Net Holdings, Inc.	0.027	0.031	0.027	0.03	58,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.44	2.46	2.38	2.44	1,316,000
APC Group Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	1,150,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.008	70,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.91	0.91	0.9	0.9	2,090,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	25,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	60,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.38	1.42	1.38	1.42	4,060,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4.25	4.3	4.25	4.3	270,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.45	0.6	0.45	0.6	260,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	206,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.46	1.56	1.46	1.54	2,276,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	7.1	7.3	7	7.3	1,113,000
Medco Holdings	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.235	920,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	1.96	1.98	1.96	1.96	190,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.42	1.52	1.38	1.44	2,597,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.185	0.18	0.185	1,160,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.72	0.81	0.72	0.78	7,040,000
SM Investments Corp.	260	267.5	260	267.5	1,155,760
South China Resources Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	210,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	11,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.115	0.13	0.115	0.13	6,300,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	13.75	14	13.75	14	2,182,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	20,000
Belle Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	3,738,000
A Brown Co. Inc.	1.24	1.28	1.24	1.28	315,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	360,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.8	2.95	2.8	2.9	148,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	880,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.56	10,610,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.2	333,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.055	0.065	0.055	0.065	19,000,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	5,505,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	200,000
Gotesco Land Inc. B	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.22	2.22	2.22	2.22	1,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	1,130,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.88	0.93	0.88	0.89	7,210,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.96	1.98	13,430,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.15	3.2	86,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.34	0.36	0.33	0.34	5,000,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	500,000
Polar Property Holdings	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	25,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	13	13	12.75	13	8,226,300
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.39	1,610,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.4	1,373,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.56	0.56	30,000
Uniwide Holdings, Inc.	0.09	0.095	0.09	0.095	3,600,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	19	19	19	19	43,600
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1	1	1	1	100,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Information Capital Tech.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	1,856,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.5	1.5	6,780,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1095	1100	1095	1100	100,320
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.8	4.85	4.8	4.8	1,746,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2160	2200	2155	2195	153,400
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Ionics Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.92	1.92	1,744,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.055	0.0575	0.055	0.0575	3,100,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	55,000
Philweb Corp.	0.031	0.032	0.031	0.031	248,100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals, Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	184,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	551,100
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	5	5	5	5	1,021,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	2.14	2.24	2.12	2.22	7,391,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	5,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.33	0.36	0.33	0.34	2,200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	1,710,000
EDUCATION					
Far Eastern University	830	830	830	830	20
Ipeople Inc.	3	3	2.9	2.9	380,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.96	2	1.96	1.96	397,000
Paxys Inc.	13	13	13	13	263,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	20,000
MINING & OIL					
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.8	769,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.8	727,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	253,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8	8	8	8	401,000
Benguet Corp. A	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	20,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.92	1.98	1.92	1.98	85,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	1,930,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	3,960,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.02	48,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	154,700,000
Omico Corp.	0.0095	0.01	0.0095	0.01	677,000,000
Philex Mining Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.7	3.7	3,598,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	329,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.44	0.48	0.43	0.46	3,850,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.63	0.72	0.63	0.71	15,770,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated, Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	180,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	95,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.98	0.99	0.98	0.98	600,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	23,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	10	10	10	10	249,000
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	103	103	103	103	1,000
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	19	19	19	19	143,500

CURRENCIES

October 18, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.796876	1.000000	49.9550
Japan	Yen	0.006703	0.008412	0.4202
United Kingdom	Pound	1.490398	1.870300	93.4308
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.102419	0.128525	6.4205
Switzerland	Franc	0.628649	0.788892	39.4091
Canada	Dollar	0.698524	0.876578	43.7895
Singapore	Dollar	0.505151	0.633914	31.6672
Australia	Dollar	0.600374	0.753409	37.6365
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.113843	2.652661	132.5137
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.212501	0.266667	13.3213
Brunei	Dollar	0.503556	0.631912	31.5672
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000087	0.000109	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.021336	0.026774	1.3375
UAE	Dirham	0.216973	0.272279	13.6017
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.254900	62.6885
Argentina	Peso	0.257057	0.322581	16.1145
Brazil	Real	0.372895	0.467946	23.3762
Denmark	Kroner	0.134132	0.168322	8.4085
India	Rupee	0.017634	0.022129	1.1055
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216896	0.272183	13.5969
Mexico	New Peso	0.073465	0.092191	4.6054
New Zealand	Dollar	0.529135	0.664011	33.1707
Norway	Kroner	0.118016	0.148098	7.3982
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013145	0.016496	0.8241
South Africa	Rand	0.104604	0.131268	6.5575
Korea	Won	0.000835	0.001048	0.0524
Sweden	Kroner	0.107951	0.135468	6.7673
Syria	Pound	0.015351	0.019264	0.9623
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024044	0.030173	1.5073
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000371	0.000466	0.0233

BIR seeks change in process of setting revenue targets

Agency also needs more people, additional funds

By Michelle V. Remo

CLAIMING TAX COLLECTION TARget for next year of P784 billion was too high, the Bureau of Internal Revenue is seeking a revision in the process of setting revenue targets, additional manpower to go after tax cheats, and a much higher operational budget.

"If you want good things to happen, you have to pay for it," Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag told reporters in an interview Tuesday night.

Buñag said the government had been setting BIR's collection target without taking into consideration the agency's resources and capability to perform its duties.

Buñag said the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC), the inter-agency body in charge of setting the government's economic policies and goals, had been taking into consideration only macroeconomic factors in setting revenue targets. These include the expected gross domestic product, exchange rate and inflation.

"There should be more sophistication in revenue setting. It (DBCC) should look at the other things," Buñag said, referring to the BIR's actual capability to meet the target.

The P784-billion collection target set for 2007 is 16 percent or more than P100 billion higher than this year's goal of P675.4 billion, which the revenue agency said was already too high.

He noted that the BIR's total workforce was only 11,800. He said that Vietnam, which has the same number of taxpayers as the Philippines', has 40,000 internal revenue personnel.

BUÑAG

Of the 11,800 BIR employees, only about 5,000 are examiners, he said. The BIR is currently conducting a study on how much additional manpower it needs to improve its ability to meet its targets.

Buñag said he was hoping the BIR's P7-billion annual budget would be raised. He said the agency welcomed a proposed bill that set aside 5 to 10 percent of the taxes collected by the BIR and the duties collected by the Bureau of Customs for these agencies' operational budget for the following year.

"Currently, there is hardly any budget for training," Buñag said.

He added that there was much work to be done to further improve the BIR's capability to detect tax cheats, such as better auditing expertise and resources. The agency is presently cleaning up its taxpayers database.

In the first nine months of this year, BIR collection amounted to P480.8 billion, falling short of the P492.4-billion target for the period. Buñag, however, said the shortfall was not entirely the BIR's accountability.

GOINGS-ON

Asia's best managed firms

TWO OF SM INVESTMENTS CORP.'S SUBsidiaries were voted by international financial analysts as among the best managed companies in Asia for 2006.

Based on a poll conducted by Euromoney Magazine, SM Prime Holdings Inc. was awarded the "Most Convincing and Coherent Strategy" in the retail sector in Asia. In the banking and financial services sector, Banco de Oro bagged the same award for the banking and financial services sector.

Also, SM Prime will receive the "Corporate Governance Asia Annual Recognition Awards for 2006" on Nov. 22.

Asiamoney cites SBC

SECURITY BANK Corp. was cited by Asiamoney Magazine for being in the top three among the top local banks cited in three categories: Best Single Electronic Trading Platform, Best for Innovative FX Products and Structured Ideas and Best for FX Sales.

Asiamoney's Annual Corporate FX Poll garnered a record number of responses from senior treasury and finance executives in listed companies, multinationals, SMEs and unlisted companies in Asia Pacific. The bank has consistently been cited for product and service innovation, receiving top honors in this year's Corporate Cash Management and Best Local Cash Management Bank poll.

In the same poll, Security DigiBanker was also voted Best Single Electronic Trading Platform.

Filipino talent in animation

TO PROMOTE FILIPINO talent in animation, the Department of Trade and Industry, through the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, and the Animation Council of the Philippines are launching Animazing Shorts 2007: 5th Animation Competition and the Philippine Animation Film Festival.

The race is for outstanding Filipino animators who can create visually stunning work and tell stories with a positive theme.

Animazing Shorts is open to all students of Philippine colleges and universities as well as freelance or employed animators. There is no limit to the number of team members for group entries.

ACPI and Citem are now accepting entries. The contest schedule is as follows: Oct. 23, deadline for storyboards submission; Oct. 24-25, screening of entries; Oct. 27, announcement of finalists, and Dec. 15, submission of final material.

Chemrez prepares to meet biodiesel demand

By Abigail L. Ho

LOCAL BIODIESEL PRODUCER CHEMREZ Technologies Inc. has committed to produce enough biodiesel to supply the 70-million-liters-a-year demand that the enactment of the Biofuels Bill into law is expected to spur.

Citing industry estimates, Chemrez said that with the 1-percent biodiesel blend that the law would mandate, biodiesel demand would likely hit 150 million to 160 million liters a year by 2008.

This also took into consideration the possibility that the Philippine Biofuel Board, which the Biofuels Law would create, would find it feasible to increase the mandatory blend to 2 percent.

From 2001-2005, Chemrez said biodiesel consumption averaged at 6.85 million liters a year, with about 7 billion liters consumed last year. This was expected to increase at an annual rate of 3-4 percent over the next five years.

Despite the expected demand growth, Chemrez said it had "more than enough operational capacity to meet the demand for international quality biodiesel required by oil firms for blending with petro-diesel."

In a statement, Chemrez director Monico Jacob said the firm's biodiesel plant could produce 60,000 metric tons or 68.8 million liters of the product yearly.

The company also has an older plant that is capable of producing 15,000 tons or 17.05 million liters of biodiesel a year.

Chemrez chief operating officer Dean Lao Jr. said the company could also take advantage of the international demand for biodiesel, particularly in European Union member-countries.

He said the company was currently in talks with several EU members who were expected to be major customers of both coconut-based and palm-based biodiesel.

In an earlier interview, he said Chemrez was already supplying biodiesel to entities in Germany and Australia.

It is currently negotiating biodiesel supply deals in China, Taiwan, Korea and Malaysia.

HGC issues ₱12B in bonds

HOME GUARANTY CORP. (HGC) RECENTLY kicked off its P12-billion zero-coupon bond issue, which is in line with efforts to further expand the government's socialized and low-cost housing programs, and encourage the development of a secondary market for the housing sector.

The bond issues unveiling was highlighted by a briefing for investors, which was attended by representatives from the financial community and various government agencies.

This was HGC's second bond issuance, with the first held in 2002.

HGC president Gonzalo Benjamin Bongolan said the exercise was expected to boost the agency's guaranty cover capability for socialized and low-cost housing, which accounted for 94 percent of the agency's outstanding guaranty as of the end of 2005.

The bonds, which mature in seven years, will be issued at a discount to par through a Dutch auction, Bongolan said. He added that the interest income earned from the issue up to 10.15 percent per year would be exempted from all taxes.

The auction is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 25 while the issue settlement will be on Oct. 27. The maturity date is 2013.

According to Bongolan, the issue is particularly attractive to investors because it carries "the irrevocable and unconditional guaranty of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines." The issue is likewise covered by a contract of guaranty between the Department of Finance and HGC for the benefit of investors, he added.

Vice President and Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) Chair Noli de Castro said the infusion of additional funds into HGC's guaranty resources should encourage the private sector to enter into the socialized and low-cost housing markets.

Bongolan added that the bonds issue was also expected to accelerate guaranty enrollments into the housing program which had been rising steadily since 2001.

The HGC reported an average of P17 billion in new guaranty enrollments yearly over the past five years. Its outstanding guaranty reached an all-time high of P51.5 billion in 2005.

Proposal to encourage real competition at WESM

IN LIGHT OF THE ONGOING INVESTIGATION of alleged price manipulation at the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM), consumer watchdog National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms (Nasecore) calls for the establishment of individual corporate entities for each of National Power Corp.'s plants.

"This setup will lessen the possibility of price manipulation as they will no longer be able to control the market. Moreover, the survival of each plant would be dependent on its ability to sell in the spot market and corner customers outside the spot market," Nasecore president Pete Ilagan said in a statement.

"The individual corporate entities will be forced to be efficient to be able to offer more attractive rates to their customers. In effect, the real cost of power will come out," he added.

He said having one corporate entity for each of Napocor's generation assets would make price manipulation at the spot market less likely as this setup would pit these plants against each other.

Under the present structure, Napocor has nine trading teams at the WESM, accounting for 20 percent of the total volume being traded.

The capacity held by Napocor's independent power producers (IPPs) is being traded by four teams from the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.

WESM operator Philippine Electricity Market Corp. is currently investigating the alleged price manipulation by PSALM during the third month of trading at the spot market (Aug. 26 to Sept. 25).

Ilagan said price manipulation could be prevented if Napocor's IPPs and even those of Lopez-led distribution utility Manila Electric Co. would be exempted from trading their capacities at the WESM.

"These (power produced by these firms) are already contracted and will only be a source of price distortions in the market. The Department of Energy must formulate a separate rule for these IPPs for purposes of dispatching them since these capacities will be paid by the consumers whether delivered or not," he said.

In an earlier statement, Napocor said the ongoing probe did not involve any other entity but PSALM.

Napocor, which was dragged into the issue since PSALM was trading the capacities of its IPPs, denied any trading malpractice.

"Our bidding is handled by nine trading teams, representing our nine major power generation plants. Napocor does not have a dominant position in terms of market share in the WESM, nor does it have any capability, nor the intention, of dominating the market, much more manipulate prices," the state firm said. *Abigail L. Ho*

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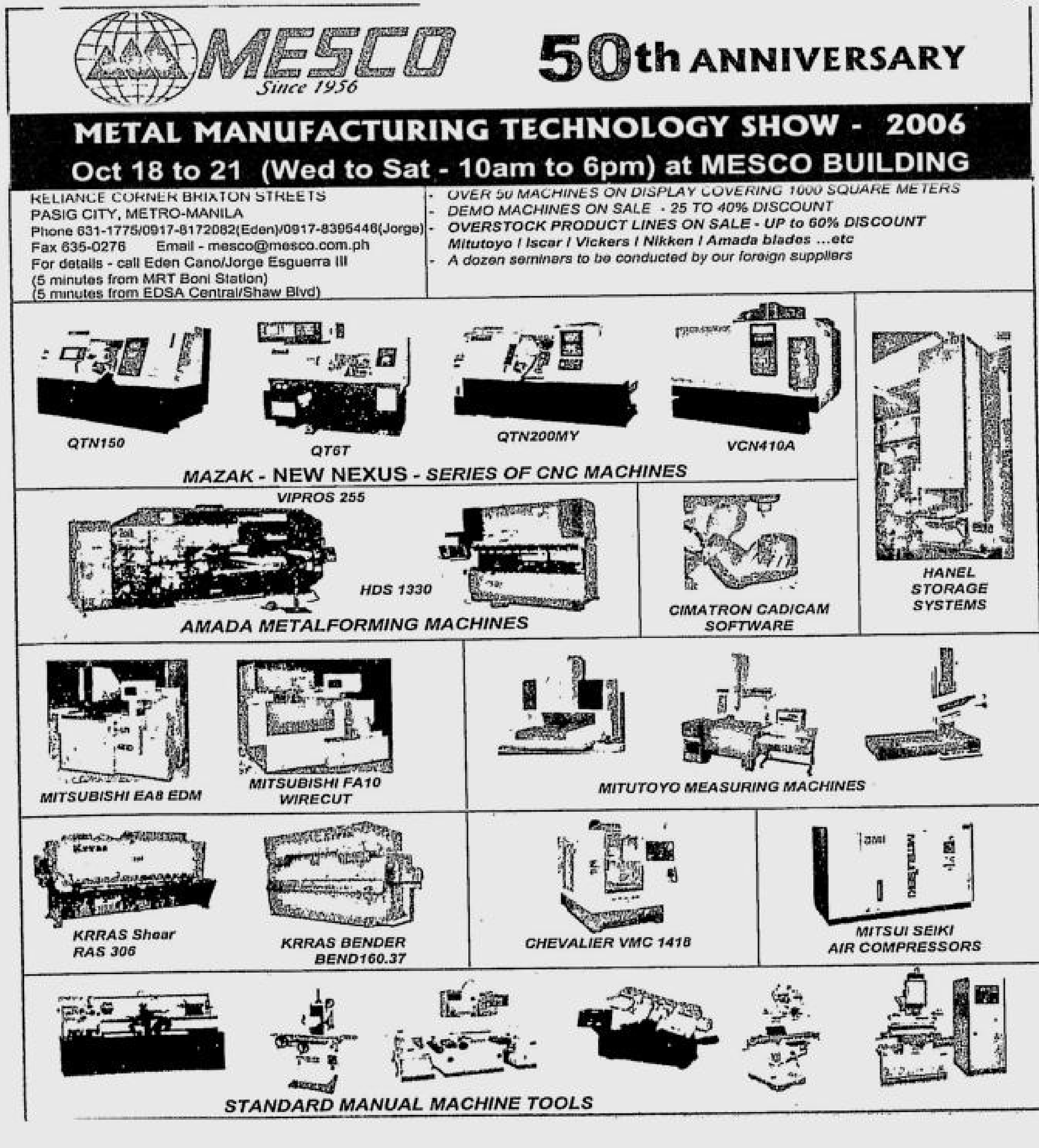

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Mining stocks fall

SINGAPORE—SOUTHEAST Asian markets were mixed on Wednesday as lower metal prices hit mining stocks such as Philippines' Philex Mining Corp., while better-than-expected results from Thailand's Siam Commercial Bank buoyed bank shares.

By midday yesterday, Singapore's Straits Times Index fell 0.37 percent, and Indonesian stocks lost 0.42 percent.

But Thai stocks rose 0.19 percent by early yesterday afternoon, Malaysian shares inched 0.05 percent higher, and Philippine shares added 0.12 percent.

In Manila, copper and gold miner Philex Mining Corp , which owns the only operational copper mine in the Philippines, fell 2.6 percent.

Gold prices weakened on Wednesday as a drop in crude oil prices ignited selling from speculators, while tin, zinc and nickel prices retreated after hitting their record-highs on the London Metal Exchange earlier this week.

Manila Mining Corp, an affiliate of gold miner Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co., fell 4.8 percent.

In Jakarta, PT International Nickel Indonesia Tbk, the Indonesian unit of Canadian nickel producer Inco fell 1.2 percent, while Indonesian state-mining firm PT Aneka Tambang Tbk dropped 1.6 percent.

In Bangkok, bank stocks were boosted by Siam Commercial Bank PCL, which reported a lower-than-expected 30 percent fall in third-quarter profit, dragged down by higher expenses, provisions and taxes. The stock rose 0.8 percent.

Kasikornbank PCL, the fourth-biggest bank by assets, added 0.8 percent, while number two lender Krung Thai Bank rose 1.7 percent.

In Singapore, Keppel Corp., the world's top offshore rig builder, rose 2 percent after the firm confirmed on Tuesday that its unit, Keppel Integrated Engineering, had won contracts worth S$1.7 billion ($1.08 billion) to build and operate a solid waste management facility in Qatar.

Analysts said the broader Singapore market was weighed down by profit-taking in bank stocks, which had outperformed the market in the last month.

DBS, Southeast Asia's largest lender, fell 1 percent. The stock has risen 12.2 percent in the last 6-1/2 weeks.

Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp., the smallest of Singapore's three lenders, dropped 1.5 percent.

Citigroup said on Tuesday that it had cut its recommendation on DBS Group to "sell" from "hold", its first "sell" call on DBS since Jan. 2004, citing peaking margins and limited upside potential for its share price. *Reuters*

Bush to push free trade at Apec

Initiative part of US-led reforms

WASHINGTON—US PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush is expected to push for a plan to improve the patchwork of free trade initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region at the annual Apec summit in Vietnam next month.

The move is part of reforms being campaigned by Bush for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum, comprising 21 developing and developed economies in the region, a senior US State Department official said.

"We can't ignore FTAs (free trade agreements). They are here to stay. So, the real question is how do we make them better and what kinds of factors we need to consider," said Michael Michalak, the US envoy to Apec.

There are presently up to 100 free trade agreements and regional trading arrangements underway or being proposed by Apec economies, which include the United States, China, Japan, Russia, Chile and key Southeast Asian economies.

Some of the free trade initiatives in the region are accused of distorting trade than creating trade. They are said to be selective in product coverage and having extremely complicated rules, not in tandem with the global trading system.

Noting that the Apec forum has held extensive discussions on the subject for several years, Michalak said, "we want to take it to another level, in terms of a way forward."

The free trade initiative, he said, was part of a broader reform plan focusing on Apec's trade, investment and security agenda.

While the United States is waging an uphill campaign to gain global consensus to open markets globally in the Doha World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations, it is also eyeing free trade arrangements in the Asia-Pacific region as an insurance in case world trade talks collapse.

APEC
VIETNAM
2006
MOTORISTS ride past a sign of the upcoming Apec (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) meeting in Hanoi. The Vietnamese capital prepares to host next month's summit of the APEC's 21 members. AFP

Some American economists have urged the Bush administration to push for an Apec-wide free trade agreement, subsuming the "noodle bowl" of FTAs and more importantly to prepare a regional "plan B" in case Doha fails.

As Apec economies account for more than half the world economy and almost half of world trade, they believe an Apec FTA outcome would be more ambitious than Doha, which at best seeks modest reductions in market impediments.

"Doha remains our number one priority but as we talked in the past, certainly the American trade agenda has a global, regional and bilateral component to it," Michalak said.

The United States is also apparently concerned that the mushrooming of free trade pacts in the region, particularly in Asia, could pose obstacles to it as China races to forge agreements with booming economies.

Washington has openly said that its free trade pacts are more comprehensive that those of China.

In Southeast Asia for example, the United States is struggling to forge free trade agreements with nations covering wide-ranging areas such as agricultural and manufacturing products, services, intellectual property, government procurement, environment and labor.

China's FTA with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) centers on goods only although services are being negotiated.

Among Apec countries, the United States has FTAs with Canada, Mexico, Singapore, Chile and Australia.

Apec groups Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Singapore, Russia, Taiwan, Thailand, the US and Vietnam. *AFP*

Oil holds at $59

SINGAPORE—OIL HOVERED NEAR $59 A barrel on Wednesday as traders awaited an OPEC meeting likely to seal a deal to cut output, while weighing an expected rise in already bulging crude oil stocks in the United States.

US light crude for November stood 3 cents higher at $58.96 a barrel by yesterday afternoon, after falling $1.01 or 1.7 percent a day ago, ending a three-day rising streak. London Brent crude climbed 7 cents to $61.01.

"The market has its eye on the US oil stocks data... but more importantly, it is also waiting to see if there is going to be something definitive on the production cuts," said US-based analyst Phil Flynn with Alaron Trading.

Ministers from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries are scheduled to meet in Qatar today to clear a deal to remove 1 million barrels from daily output in an attempt to stem oil's drop from a high of $78.40 in July.

But the group has been divided on whether it should cut the output from actual production of roughly 27.5 million barrels per day (bpd) or from its nominal 28 million-bpd ceiling, a disagreement analysts say has hurt the cartel's credibility.

Thursday's meeting may also provide the first public comment from the world's top producer, Saudi Arabia, which has thus far been silent on the proposed curbs.

Two weeks ago a senior OPEC delegate said the kingdom would cut output by about 300,000 bpd. *Reuters*

INDONESIAN laborers work at a construction site in Jakarta. Indonesia's parliament approved on Tuesday the government's 2007 budget after two months of debate, with a deficit for Southeast Asia's largest economy clocking in at $4.4 billion. AFP

BCDA to pay Baguio ₱15M

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE BASES CONVERSION Development Authority has advised the city government that it owed Baguio only P15 million for developing Camp John Hay into a major tourist destination.

This prompted the Baguio City treasury to issue the agency another collection notice amounting to P590 million.

Suspended Mayor Braulio Yaranon had tried to collect over P700 million from BCDA, which represented the city's share of the rent paid by Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco).

The developer is operating a tourism estate but it lost its tax incentives in 2004 after the Supreme Court nullified these benefits introduced in 1994 by Proclamation 420.

Because of the court order, Fil Estate chair Robert John Sobrepeña, who is also CJHDevco president, stopped paying rent despite a new contract guiding the BCDA in recovering the developer's outstanding rent of about P1 billion dating back to 1998.

Lyssa Pagano-Calde, vice president of the BCDA estate manager John Hay Management Corp. (JHMC), wrote city administrator Peter Fianza earlier this month to inform him that the only amount due the city was based on what the government actually collected from the developer and that part of the money was used to fund projects.

In an Aug. 28 letter to city treasurer Thelma Manaois, Calde listed the projects financed by BCDA out of the city government's share of the rent since 1995.

Part of the rent share is also set aside for the P50-million purchase of the Baguio Convention Center from the Government Service Insurance System.

The convention center was built by former First Lady Imelda Marcos in 1978 to host the chess match between world grandmasters Anatoly Karpov and Viktor Korchnoi.

Calde said the local government bought the convention center from the Government Service Insurance System by obligating seven years of proceeds representing its share from the lease rentals of CJHDevco.

Calde also put P78 million in a trust fund, "but she had never been transparent about these proceedings," Manaois said.

Calde told the council last month of a fund reserved for repairing the convention center, which was an additional obligation BCDA agreed to shoulder when it bought the facility from GSIS.

Manaois said some of the projects Calde identified were not reflected on the city government's official list of projects.

She also said that the 1995 memorandum of agreement, detailing the city's revenue from the John Hay project, specified a fixed share from rent proceeds each year.

"It does not say BCDA can stop paying Baguio if the developer fails to pay government because that is not what the agreement says," Manaois said.

"The agreement cannot also be affected by any new rent arrangement BCDA undertakes with CJHDevco because these new contracts cannot be retroactive, so BCDA still owes us this amount."

Manicani Island at center of mining debate

By Cyrain G. Cabueñas
Inquirer Visayas

GUIUAN, EASTERN SAMAR—ON A clear day, Manicani Island looks imposing, dwarfing the other island barangays of this town facing the Pacific Ocean.

At the heart of the island, however, lies its secret—two huge gaping craters approximately 30 hectares in diameter carved away by heavy machinery.

About an hour-long boat ride from the town proper of Guiuan, Manicani is home to Hinatuan Mining Corporation (HMC).

For many years, Manicani has served as a haven for those who wanted to commune with nature or check out World War II artifacts.

The island used to be endowed with various species of tropical fish, coral reefs and lush vegetation.

These images of serenity and bounty compelled some people to reside in Manicani for good.

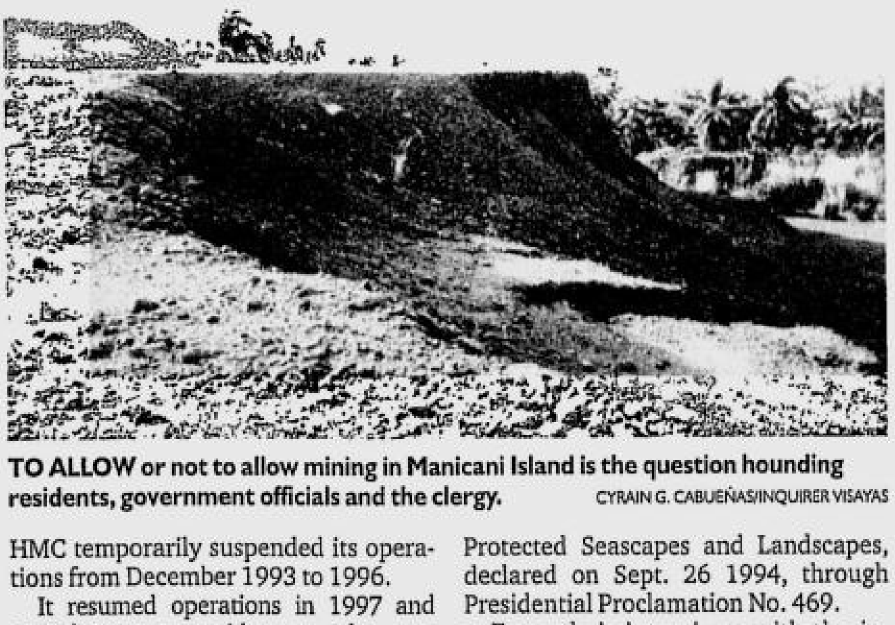
Mauricio Siman, 60, a native of Bohol, was a third-year mechanical engineering student when he decided to settle down in Manicani with his Samareña wife in the late 60s.

"It was like the promised land. There was abundant produce in the mountains, the sea was teeming with fish, and the islanders lived like one big happy family," he said.

These days, however, Siman has no glowing account of Manicani.

"The island's balding mountains and depleted marine resources no longer hold any promise," he said.

HMC acquired its mining rights over Manicani Island from Palawan Syndicated Ventures Inc. in January 1991. But due to low metal prices and limited demand of nickel in the world market, HMC temporarily suspended its operations from December 1993 to 1996.


TO ALLOW or not to allow mining in Manicani Island is the question hounding residents, government officials and the clergy. CYRAIN G. CABUEÑAS/INQUIRER VISAYAS

It resumed operations in 1997 and 2001 but was met with protests by some sectors, including the Roman Catholic Clergy of the Diocese of Borongan.

In 2002, then Environment Secretary Heherson T. Alvarez created a special team composed of representatives from the office of the Undersecretary for Environment and Natural Resources, MGB and EMB Central Offices to investigate the impact of the mining operations in the island and to validate complaints aired by the Diocese of Borongan.

After a week of research, the team concluded in a report that the craters posed to threat because these occupied just 5.27 percent of the smallest barangay and contained no toxic elements.

Manicani Island is part of the Guiuan Protected Seascapes and Landscapes, declared on Sept. 26 1994, through Presidential Proclamation No. 469.

From their interviews with the inhabitants, they came to the conclusion that marine life was greatly depleted because of dynamite and cyanide fishing.

Moreover, their samplings showed that siltation and destruction of fish habitats were not due to mining operations but to other factors, such as natural geological changes.

Carlo Caliwan, 39, president of the Concerned Citizens for Peace and Progress of Manicani Island, said that the minerals of the island were God's gifts to the people of Manicani, which they make use of.

"The Roman Catholic Church of Borongan should give a chance to the mining company to rehabilitate the area before making any judgments," he added. "We want to get employed by HMC because we can no longer compete with the illegal and big-time fishermen."

In his letter to former Environment Secretary Michael Defensor dated Nov. 10, 2004, HMC president Salvador B. Zamora II said the minerals should be extracted and shipped out for they will contribute much to the economy in terms of employment and taxes.

Zamora had said that HMC was committed, under the mining laws, to rehabilitate the mined areas.

After getting the DENR Ore Transport Permit and the approval of Guiuan Mayor Annaliza Gonzales-Kwan, about 150,000 tons of stockpiled nickel ore were transported by HMC to Japan since January last year.

Bishop Leonardo Y. Medroso, the former bishop of Borongan, and the rest of the local clergy had repeatedly expressed their collective stand against mining operations in Manicani through circulars to the faithful and letters to government officials.

Medroso had said that only the operators and a few government officials stood to benefit from the mineral deposits.

Federico B. Ganigan, HMC vice president for operations, on the other hand, said the mining operations would do more good than harm to the people of Manicani.

"Those who are against us worry only about the environmental hazards, which they claim our company would bring. But they should know that we have a covenant which we always religiously follow—to protect the environment and to rehabilitate mined-out areas," he said.

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Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Pilar Street, Zamboanga City

SECTION I. INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Zamboanga City Water District, through its Bids and Awards Committee II (BAC II), invites Suppliers/Manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

PR NO.	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)	COST OF BID DOCUMENTS	DATE OF ISSUANCE OF BID DOCUMENTS	DATE OF PRE-BID CONFERENCE	DATE OF SUBMISSION/ OPENING OF BIDS
9237	Dental Services (Retainer Dentist Contract for a period of One (1) year	P 180,000.00	P 250.00	October 16 to 19, 2006	October 23, 2006	November 6, 2006

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules & Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process of the Eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall be advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall be then awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT and inspect the Bidding documents at the address given below during office hours (8:00-5:00 pm).

All Bids must be accompanied by a ***Bid Security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's and Manager's Check in the amount of One Percent (1%) of the Approved Budget Cost.*** Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid Opening shall be at the 2nd Floor, ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT Main Office Building, Pilar St., Zamboanga City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time or prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Mr. Noel M. Kawaguchi
Pilar St., Zamboanga City 7000
Telephone No. : (062) 991-1556
Email :
Fax : (062) 991-2799

(Sgd.) **LEONARDO REY D. VASQUEZ**
BAC II Chairman

(PDI–Oct. 19, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
MEEJOO LATEX CORPORATION U-4 G & 2/F, No. 5 Salem International Commercial, Domestic Road, Pasay City	Geon Kang	General Manager
OLIMPIAD LEARNING CENTER INC. Westgate Tower Investment Drive Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Kwang Joo Yoon	Administrative Officer
WASHINGTON TUTORIAL CENTER INC. #17 Karachi St., BF Homes Parañaque City	Han Sub Kim	General Manager
SANDIGAN SHIP SERVICES INCORPORATED 9/F, Salustiana D. Ty Tower 104 Paseo de Roxas cor. Perea St. Legaspi Village, Makati City	Osamu Yamamoto	Technical Consultant
WATSON WYATT ASIA PACIFIC SHARED SERVICES CENTER 14/F, Tower One, The Enterprise Center 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Gregory Bruton Sargeaunt	Managing Consultant
DONKEY DOO TRADERS LTD. CO. Unit 1202, Sogo Plaza 850 Ylaya St., Binondo, Manila	Zhongyong Cai	Consultant
ACCENTURE, INC. MSE Building, Ayala Avenue Makati City	Wong Soon Yew Roy	Functional Analyst
ACCENTURE, INC. MSE Building, Ayala Avenue Makati City	Joseph Richard Sieverding	Project Manager
ACCENTURE, INC. MSE Building, Ayala Avenue Makati City	Ifrin Maharudin	Consultant
XAVIER SCHOOL, INC. 64 Xavier St., Greenhills West San Juan, M.M.	Suling Pang	Grade School Substitute Teacher
KRAFT FOODS (PHILIPPINES) INC. 8378 Dr. A. Santos Ave., BF Homes, Parañaque City	Tshilumba Carlyle Ngandu	Senior Engineer
IMPULSE BOOKS, INC. Unit 1610, East Tower PSE Centre, Exchange Road Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Rajiv Sharma	Consultant
IMPULSE BOOKS, INC. Unit 1610, East Tower PSE Centre, Exchange Road Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Anil Vijayan	Consultant
DONKEY DOO TRADERS LTD. CO. Unit 1202, Sogo Plaza 850 Ylaya St., Binondo, Manila	Bingyuan Huang	Consultant

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI–Oct. 19, 2006)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project/Brief Description	One (1) lot supply, installation and commissioning of one (1) unit Vacuum Heat Treatment Furnace
Approved Budget for the Contract	US$ 409,202.00
Delivery Period	Per BSP Terms of Reference

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	11 October - 26 October 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	27 October; 10:00 A.M.
3. Opening of Bids	14 November 2006; 2:00 P.M.
4. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P11,500.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI--Oct. 19, 2006)

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: 12 October, 2006
ADB Loan No.: 1772-PHI
Contract No.: SP 10-004-01

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RURAL PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT SECTOR (InfRES) PROJECT and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contract for **Upgrading of San Luis - Siloo Farm to Market Roads** in Malitbog, Bukidnon. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries of the Asian Development Bank that:
   (a) are registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board to undertake infrastructure projects as a Class 'Medium A' contractor or better, and or a group of at least 2 Medium A contractors operating within a proposed joint venture, and
   (b) have undertaken within the past 5 years, as the contractor, management contractor 3 road construction work projects valued at least Php 10,000,000 for each single Medium A contractor, and within a joint venture agreement
2. The Municipality of Malitbog ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from bidders with the above qualifications for the construction and completion of the Works, which includes road improvement/upgrading works and providing a gravel overlay of 7.64 kms. Included is the construction and installation of cross-drainage structures, concrete paving of critical portions concrete lining of roadside canals and guardrails. The Contract period for the works is about 6.5 months (200 Calendar days).
3. Bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect and acquire the bidding documents at the office of the Employer, at

   Office of the Municipal Mayor
   InfRES Local Project Office
   Municipality of Malitbog
   Province of Bukidnon
   Region X
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders on submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 10,000.00. Issuance of Bid Documents will be on October 27, 2006 to November 25, 2006. Pre-Bidding conference will be on November 29, 2006 at 9:00 in the morning at the Municipal Session Hall.
5. All Bids must be accompanied by a Security of Two Percent (2%) of the total Bid Price in the form of Cash, Manager's Check or Bank Guarantee or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to the above address on or before the closing date on December 11, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. Bids will be opened at 2:00 p.m. on the aforementioned date, in the presence of bidders' representative who choose to attend.
6. The LGU reserves the right to accept or reject any bids or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligations and to cancel the bidding process at any time prior to award of the contractor, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidders of the reasons for Employer's action.

(Sgd.) OTHELO S. SUMUGAT
Chairperson, Bids & Awards Committee (BAC)

(PDI--Oct. 12 & 19, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
FOOD AND NUTRITION RESEARCH INSTITUTE
General Santos Avenue, Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel. Nos. 837-2934; 837-2071 to 82; Fax. No. (632) 837-3164

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The FOOD AND NUTRITION RESEARCH INSTITUTE-DOST (FNRI) invites prospective suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following item:

Item/Description	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Time		Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)	End-User
		Pre-Bid Conference	Final Opening of Bids		
One (1) unit Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer	PhP2.47M	Nov. 14, 2006 10:00 a.m.	Nov. 22, 2006 10:00 a.m.	PhP2,400.00	FSTD

Bids forms may be obtained from the FNRI Bids and Awards Secretariat, Property Section, FNRI Bldg. DOST Comp., Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila from 8:00AM to 5:00PM during office hours starting November 2, 2006

Pre-bid conference will be held on November 14, 2006 at the FNRI Conference Room.

Attendance is a MUST for all concerned parties namely, BAC members, Technical Working Group members and accredited suppliers.

For more information, please call Ms. Yolanda G. Perlas/Mr. Hilarion "JUN" D. Sanchez,Jr at telephone no. 837-6149.

FNRI reserves the right to reject any or all without offering any reasons waive any required formality therein, and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. FNRI further assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders to any expense or loss that may be incurred in participating in the bidding.

(Sgd). **ZENAIDA V. NARCISO, Ph.D.**
Chairman, FNRI Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Oct. 18 & 19, 2006)

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ANNOUNCEMENT:

The application for license of **PLUSFACTOR VENTURES, INC. for Private Recruitment and Placement Agency** (PRPA) has been approved by the Department of Labor and Employment, National Capital Region (DOLE-NCR). As such, **PLUSFACTOR VENTURES, INC.** is authorized to operate as a private recruitment and placement agency with **PRPA License No. M-06-00-288 from 26 September, 2006 to 25 September, 2008,** unless sooner revoked, cancelled or suspended pursuant to Rule VI of the Rules and Regulations Governing PRPA for Local Employment

(PDI - October 19, 2006)

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Makati City

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **SOUTH WESTERN CEMENT CORPORATION** with office address Room 208, Diez Building, F. Ramos corner V. Ranudo Streets, Cebu City is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as New Producer of Cement with capacity of **1.6 Million MTPY** with project/plant site located at Barangay Looc, Malabuyoc, Cebu City.

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI - Oct. 19, 2006)

Male/Female

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OBITUARIES

So Lovingly Remembered
by his family
on his 11th Death Anniversary

RAMON R. ANGELES, MD

Died October 19, 1995

We faithfully keep him in our
memory and prayers.

Mass will be said for the eternal repose
of his soul at the Sacred Heart Parish
Church, Kamuning
on October 19 at 7 a.m.

The State Funeral for the late
National Artist for Architecture

PABLO S. ANTONIO

has been postponed till further notice
due to the death of his widow

Marina R. Antonio

LEONORA VILLANUEVA RECTO

of Padre Garcia, Batangas

Peacefully joined her husband **Rustico Sr.**
on October 16, 2006 at the age of 79.

Leonor is loving **Inay** of **Nestor, Sonia, Chona, Chito, Boyet, Chuchi** and **Butch**;
Mommy of daughters and sons-in-law, grandchildren, and great grandchildren;
Ate/Tia Lula of siblings, siblings-in-law, relatives and friends.

Her body lies in state at the Recto Residence in Padre Garcia.
Interment on Sunday, October 22, 2006, at the Santuario de la Paz
Memorial Park, Mataas na Kahoy, Batangas, after the 12:00 noon Funeral Mass
at the Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish Church, Padre Garcia.

"The heart that has truly loved will never be forgotten"

Death Notice

JOEL ZARAGA VIZCARRA

Died in the Grace of our Lord last Oct. 15, 2006

His body lies in state at his residence in Area I, San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Sunday, 10:a.m. (Oct. 22, 2006) at Citrus Cemetery, City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."

— 2 Corinthians 5:8

We design obituaries for free.

Gov't warned against complacency in reforms

WB exec says economic takeoff hinged on stable economic policies

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE WORLD BANK'S DIRECTOR FOR THE Philippines yesterday said the government needed to follow through on fiscal reforms made in the past two years to help make the economy take off and be part of the fast growth in the region.

Speaking at the opening rites of the 32nd Philippine Business Conference, Joachim von Amsberg said gains arising from the reforms tended to bring the government into a state of complacency, which would make efforts muddle through the coming years instead of delivering the country to a higher level of development.

"Rapid progress is possible but the current situation can lead to either a scenario of muddling through or a take off," von Amsberg said. "Strong policy signals and credibility followed by real investments would (spell the difference)."

He said East Asia's "renaissance"—characterized by the fastest growth rate observed globally—provided unprecedented opportunities for the Philippines for dynamic development and rapid poverty reduction.

"There is no structural obstacle for this to happen but there is also a need for coherent and consistent policy implementation," the WB's local chief said.

Von Amsberg added that the country's potential for rapid development rested on a booming neighborhood; an educated, English-speaking people; the rich natural resources, and the dynamic sectors of electronics, business services and overseas workers who bring in foreign exchange.

But he said the country was ironically reaping modest development outcomes, with growth driven by remittances and consumption rather than by investments or productivity. "The key to this are investment climate reforms and implementation of public-private sector partnership reforms."

The official said there was also slow poverty reduction and high inequality that impede development. "The key to that are awareness-building, especially about the elements for targeting public programs for the poor."

Von Amsberg suggested a policy agenda aimed at addressing the situation that, for one, covers macroeconomic fiscal stability by strengthening the rule of law and credibility of contracts.

He added that progress with privatization needed to be pushed to allow corporations rather than the government develop a vigorous market.

"(There should also be a) shift of focus toward economy-wide deregulation and incentives and away from sector- or firm-specific incentives," he added. "Transaction costs and red tape also need to be reduced further."

He said policies could be improved by ensuring open and competitive bidding processes in the infrastructure sector; enforcing transparently the rules on managing environmental and social risks and revenues in mining; supporting massive public and private investments to build up a pool of skilled information technology workers; ensuring a more efficient regime of mergers, acquisitions and liquidations in the financial sector.

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MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza (R), Clark Development Corp. president Levy Laus and Samie Lim (L), PCCI chair for tourism, retailing and franchising, tour CDC's pavilion at the opening of the 32nd Philippine Business Conference (PBC) Expo at the Exposition Hall of the Manila Hotel.

MWSS gives Maynilad bidders more time to prepare offers

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE METROPOLITAN WATERWORKS AND Sewerage System (MWSS) has agreed to extend for another two weeks the deadline for the submission of financial and technical bids on the reprivatization of Manila's west concession area.

MWSS Deputy Administrator Macra Cruz said the utility's board decided in a meeting late Tuesday to reset the final submission to Nov. 7 instead of the Oct. 24 deadline.

This would prevent further delays and strictly follow the schedule set by the MWSS-led Maynilad Board of Directors, added MWSS and Maynilad Board chair Oscar Garcia.

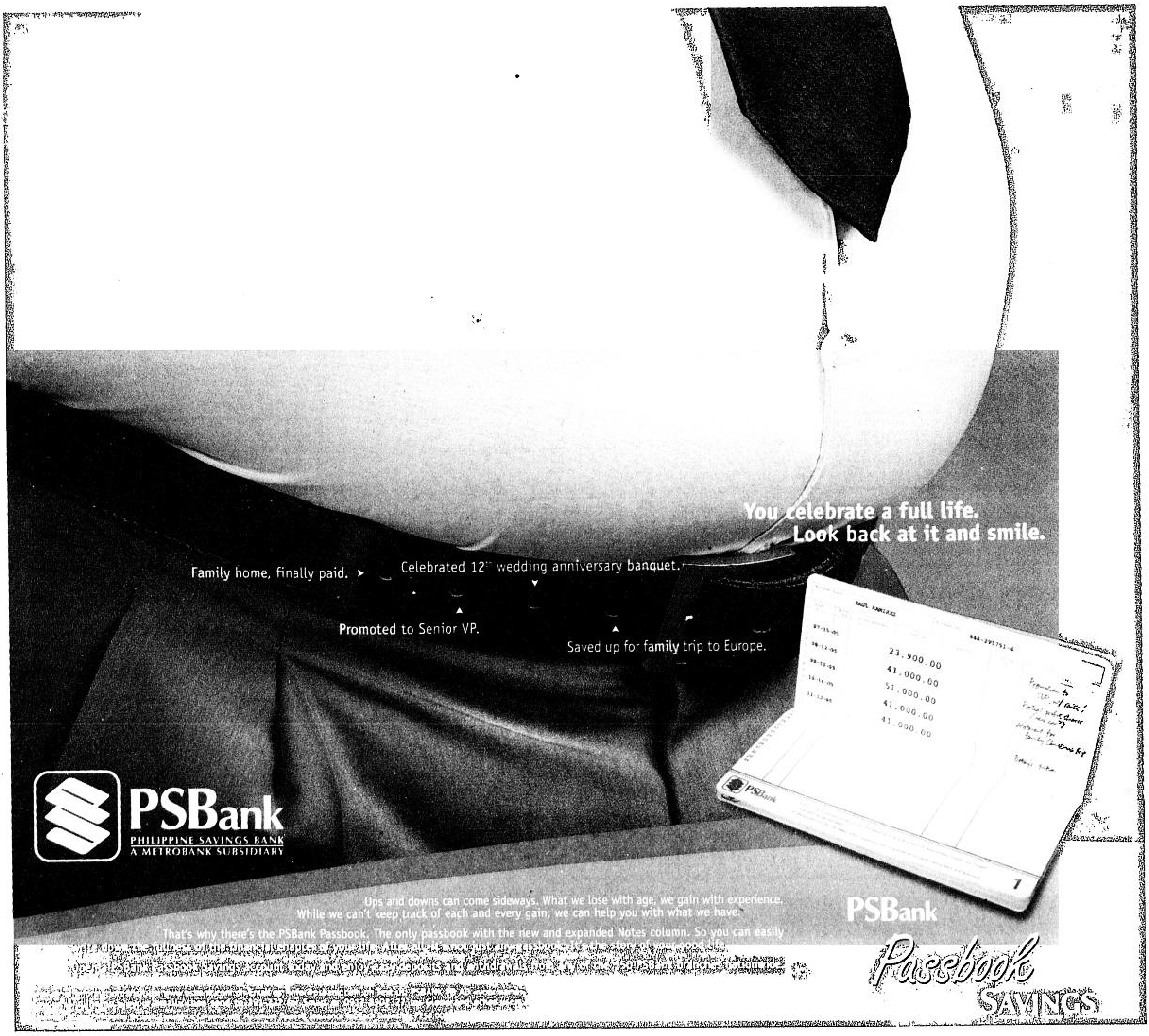
Garcia said the five interested bidders now have enough time to do their due diligence and prepare their bids.

Three of the four participating companies vying for the government's 83.97-percent interest in Maynilad Water Services Inc. had sought an extension for them to conduct a due diligence on the company.

Manila Water Co. Inc., a unit of Ayala Corp., the DMCI Holdings-Metro Pacific Investment Corp. consortium and Karunakaran Ramchand of India filed the request, arguing that the MWSS failed to provide the needed documents last Sept. 6.

"There is some procedural delay on their (MWSS) part. We obtained the transaction documents on Sept. 21. We do not want to rush our bids," a company official from one of the bidding companies said. "We will need more time."

The official also noted that the submission of the final bids was crucial as the MWSS would then open the financial bid envelope of qualified bidders to determine the highest offer. The Privatization Council would determine with finality if the price was right and if the process was carried out according to law before confirming the winning bidder.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WEDNESDAY 2BU ◎ THURSDAY FOOD ◎ FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney with the US Demo Kitchen team

Training chefs the US way

A USDA demo kitchen for the region opens at the CCA complex

By Miguel Escaño
Contributor

THE AMERICAN BRAND OF culinary training comes closer to home with the opening of the United States Demonstration Kitchen and Learning Facility at the Center for Culinary Arts (CCA) Manila.

The US Demo Kitchen was unveiled recently at the CCA complex in Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City. US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney graced the event, as did members of the Regional US Trade Association and key operators. Also in attendance were members of the Council of Chefs, a group of US-educated Filipino chefs.

"We have here a wonderful partnership that harnesses the creativity of Philippine chefs, topnotch US culinary training and US food products," said Kenney at the ribbon-cutting ceremonies.

Regional hub

The US Demo Kitchen includes a fully equipped training kitchen and theater-style seating for 62 people. It boasts state-of-the-art equipment funded by the Emerging Markets Office (EMO). Cooking demonstrations will be aided by two 42-inch plasma television screens, three rotating video cameras, theater surround system and an audio-visual control booth.

The project is spearheaded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in partnership with the CCA. Guest chefs sponsored by the USDA, as well as members of the Council of Chefs, will supervise the training sessions on-site. Certain modules will be open to the public free of charge.

The US Demo Kitchen is envisioned to be a regional hub for US culinary training to benefit not only Filipino chefs but also other Asian chefs.

According to the USDA, "The goal is to echo the knowledge to a broader base of audience within a shorter period of time."

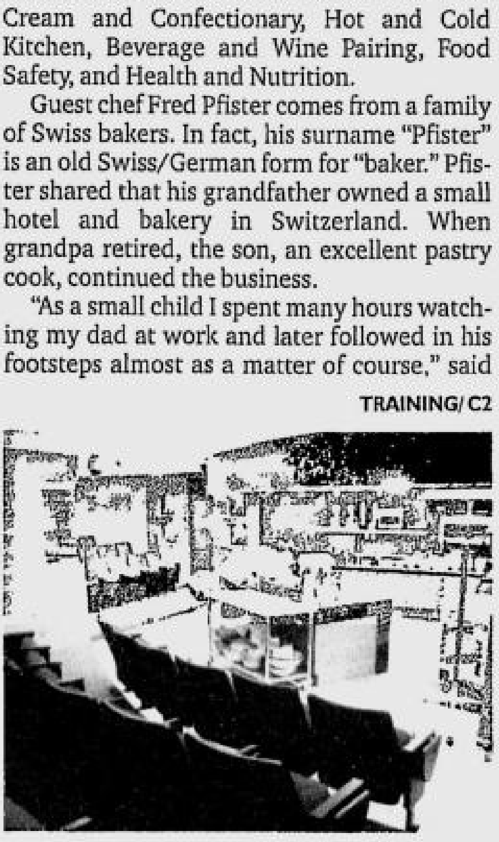
Baking demo

To showcase the facility, guest chef Fred Pfister and training head Jill Sandique conducted a baking demo (see pastry recipes below), which kicked off the Baking and Pastry Module, the first set of training sessions for October and November. Other modules to be offered over the next few months include Ice Cream and Confectionary, Hot and Cold Kitchen, Beverage and Wine Pairing, Food Safety, and Health and Nutrition.

Guest chef Fred Pfister comes from a family of Swiss bakers. In fact, his surname "Pfister" is an old Swiss/German form for "baker." Pfister shared that his grandfather owned a small hotel and bakery in Switzerland. When grandpa retired, the son, an excellent pastry cook, continued the business.

"As a small child I spent many hours watching my dad at work and later followed in his footsteps almost as a matter of course," said

TRAINING/ C2


STATE-OF-THE-ART US Demo Kitchen has theater-style seating, modern culinary equipment from premier American brands, and advanced studio and visual facilities.

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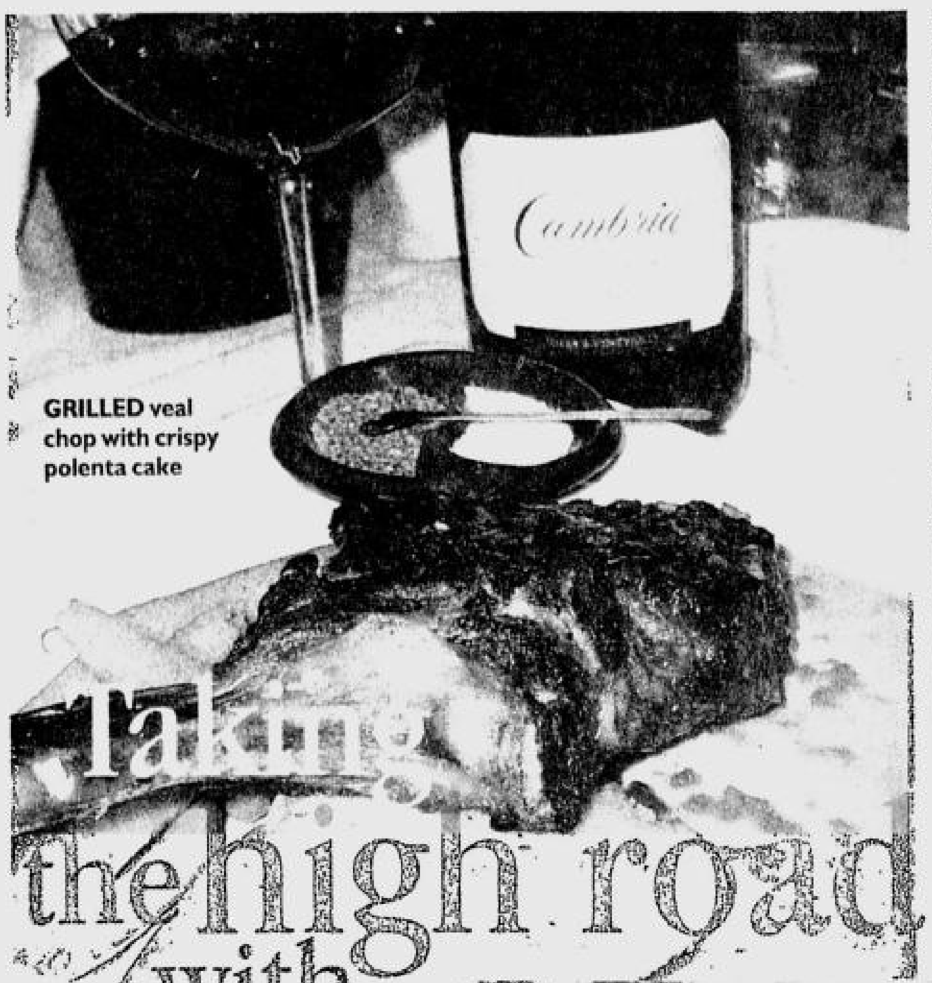
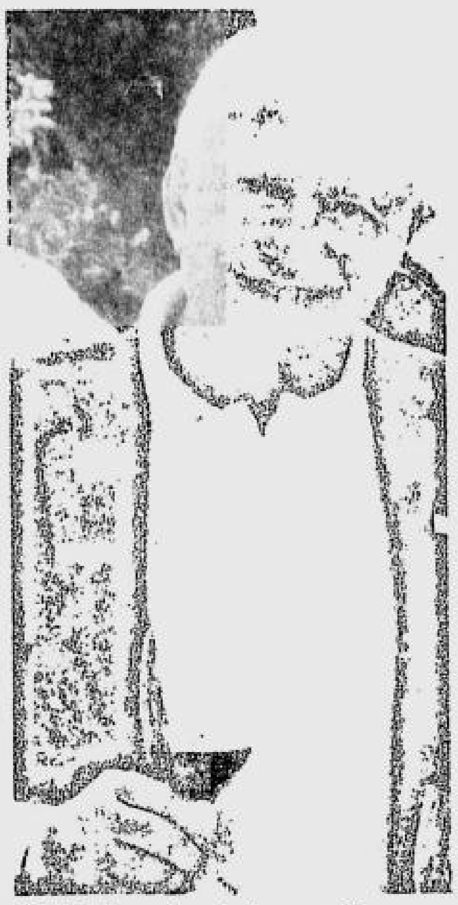
Taking the high road with California wine

SEARED scallops and braised pork belly with black beluga lentils and herb salad



GRILLED veal chop with crispy polenta cake



JESS Jackson, founder/owner of Kendall-Jackson estates

KENDALL-JACKSON Grand Reserve 2004 Chardonnay

By Tita Meneses-Trillo
Contributor

A WELCOME RECEPTION greeted the Asia-Pacific agents, amidst a rustic and charming setting—a tree-lined driveway, a cobblestone courtyard complete with fountain à la Fellini's "La Dolce Vita." La dolce vita, indeed!

It was a fitting setting for the Kendall-Jackson Vintner's Reserve Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon, the wines that put the Kendall-Jackson Wine Estates Group firmly on the California and global wine maps.

It was technically the Chardonnay that was an accidental "hit" when it was introduced in 1982. Critics of the wine labeled it "too sweet" but the American palate embraced it and a star was born. If statistics are anything to go by, in 2003, over two million cases of the Kendall-Jackson Vintner's Reserve Chardonnay were sold.

Today, Kendall-Jackson is ranked ninth in Wine Business Monthly's Top 30 US companies of 2005.

Elevated palates

The second day of the Asia-Pacific wine symposium included a visit to the Hawkeye Vineyard at Alexander Mountain Estate. The hour's drive from our hotel was well worth it—for the breathtaking view that greeted us upon arrival. Not only were we greeted by a 360-degree view of vines, as far as the eye can see, but a lovely buffet spread was waiting.

On the contrary, our lunch selection was a worthy match to the wine selection—the Kendall-Jackson Hawkeye Cabernet and Grand Reserve Cabernet. We treated ourselves to a spread of maple balsamic pork tenderloin and sesame roasted salmon fillet; these were complemented by citrus wild rice, arugula and watercress with peppered strawberries and some grilled vegetables.

I'm quite certain that most wine lovers harbor the secret fantasy of being able to make their own wine. Kendall-Jackson gave us the opportunity to experience this—however fleetingly. The winemaster at Kendall-Jackson, Randy Ullom, called my blend "... a powerful wine... with the flavor of the fruit that explodes in the palate, all day through." For a moment there, I was entertaining visions of my own award-winning, Robert Parker-recommended wine, but that soon passed.

Dinner that evening was at Syrah Restaurant where wines from Cambria Winery, Carmel Road, Tenuta Di Artceno and Edmeades were featured. The food was, as usual, an excellent accompaniment to the wines—grilled calamari salad, grilled veal chops with a crispy polenta cake, spiced with a smoky paprika sauce, a Meyer lemon-olive oil polenta cake with mixed berries softened by crème Fraiche. The Cambria 2004, estate-bottled Pinot Noir, which came from Sta. Maria Valley at Julia's vineyard, turned out with consistent fruit flavors and soft structure with blueberry cranberry flavors.

Kendall-Jackson dinner

On our third day, we took a behind-the-scenes tour of the Hartford Family winery: a tasting session of the Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs of La Crema Winery, with assistant winemaker Elizabeth Grant Douglass, followed a picnic lunch by the pond at La Crema.

Dinner was at the Kendall-Jackson Wine Center in Santa Rosa with winemaster Randy Ullom, Kendall-Jackson president John Grant, and Kendall-Jackson CEO Barbara Banke, who is also Jess Jackson's wife.

The highlight of our Asia-Pacific symposium was a surprise visit by Jess Jackson, who stepped down as CEO of Kendall-Jackson in 2001 and passed along the reins to his wife Barbara. The small operation that began in 1982 is now a global, billion-dollar operation, selling an estimated five million cases of wine in a year.

He gave a brief talk about what makes Kendall-Jackson special—the fact that mountain-grown grapes produce the best-tasting wine. By virtue of natural selection, grapes that grow on hillsides prove to be more difficult, not only for the farmer, but also for the vine. In short, the vines that grow here are exposed to the sun and more extreme weather conditions. The vines will produce less fruit, but fruit of a higher quality. As in high-density farming, where vines are made to work harder and are "stressed" —so it is with hillside-grown grapes.

Aside from the company's philosophy of using hillside-grown grapes, the company also invested in an oak-barrel factory in France—another sound investment in the industry.

In person, it is clear that Jess Jackson is quite passionate about the wine-making business, although he prefers to let his wine speak for itself. That is how confident is he about his wines—whether it carries the Kendall-Jackson name or other brands from his various estates such as Camelot, Stonestreet, Pepi, La Crema, Cambria, Atalon.

As if to hone the point about his wines speaking for itself, our lunch that day was the most casual of the lot—a stop at a St. Helena institution, Taylor's Refresher. This little pit stop along Main Street, St. Helena has been serving their special burgers and shakes since 1949 and has retained its soda-fountain look of old. Fairly new additions to their menu include blue-cheese burger, an ahi burger and espresso bean milkshake.

The appeal of Kendall-Jackson's Vintners Reserve Chardonnay is that it is a wine without pretension. It tastes as good with a five-star meal and is just as completely at home with comfort food, like burgers. It's casual without being cheap. It's luxury without all the affectations. It's got pedigree but it's not overly boastful, preferring instead to let its taste speak for itself.

Our entire three days proved just that—you don't have to sacrifice quality for quantity and, in Kendall-Jackson's case, taking the high road (both literally and figuratively) doesn't necessarily mean an inflated cost. Given their passion and dedication to wine-making, consider it a bargain.

THE KENDALL-JACKSON Wine Center in Sonoma country

JOHN Grant, president of Kendall Jackson Wine Estates; the writer; and Barbara Banke, CEO, Kendall-Jackson Wine Estates

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THE CONSUMER

Thank God for honest people

By Linda B. Bolido

IT SEEMS TGIFRIDAY'S HAS MORE than just Friday to be thankful for.

Kristelle Tee wants to commend the restaurant chain, specifically the Glorietta 3 branch, "for hiring the best people" and for taking good care of customers.

Tee has every reason to be happy with TGIF's service and staff. "I accidentally left my shoulder bag in the restaurant... on one of the seats... I had important documents, identification cards, calling cards, and an ATM (automated teller machine) card inside the bag. I might have never retrieved it if the restaurant staff hadn't noticed it right away.

"I did not even realize that I left it. Thankfully, the manager, whose name I unfortunately cannot recall, called up my home number [and informed] my mother about [it]. I went back to TGIFriday's and was able to retrieve my shoulder bag and all my possessions that same evening, about 20 minutes after I left the restaurant.

"The manager, to ensure I was the owner of the shoulder bag, asked a few questions about [its] contents, an act that is highly commendable.

"My utmost appreciation and commendation to the entire management and staff of TGIFriday's at Glorietta 3, most especially the one who found my bag and alerted the manager. I will always return and dine in their restaurant for I am assured of high-quality service from their very efficient and trustworthy staff."

Feedback

A few years from now, Johansen DySeng will probably find humor in the situation he found himself in but at the moment he is just annoyed and befuddled by the whole thing.

Reacting to an item in the Oct. 5 column, the FedEx experience of another reader, DySeng told of his own "unusual" experience.

"I live in Chicago, USA, and I sent a package to my cousin in Michigan... Pretty simple don't you think considering Michigan is not too far from Chicago, around 30 minutes by plane?"

The reader said he sent the package Sept. 27, but by Oct. 5, when he sent his e-mail, it had not reached the recipient.

"When I checked FedEx's tracking site, it showed that my package was in, of all places, Parañaque, Philippines. How it ended there I am really not sure."

DySeng said Fedex's explanation mentioned something about mislabeling.

Well, I guess we really should put the blame on all those those Filipinos abroad sending packages home. FedEx probably simply assumed one package from a Pinoy going to another Pinoy had to be destined for the Philippines.

Consumer month

October is Consumer Awareness Month but do consumers know that? I myself found out only a couple of days ago when I saw a huge advertisement about it.

I hope that is not the extent of activities lined up for the month. So much needs to be done to make consumers aware of and exercise their rights under the law.

Tip

A friend gave me this book "Gardening Magic" by Joey Green. Every now and then, when space allows, I will share some tips from the book that you may or may not find useful. Here's one that is relevant because of the fear of dengue:

"Repel mosquitoes by rubbing Listerine (original, not Cool Mint) on your skin. The thyme in Listerine keeps mosquitoes away."

I haven't tried it so I can't vouch that it will work.

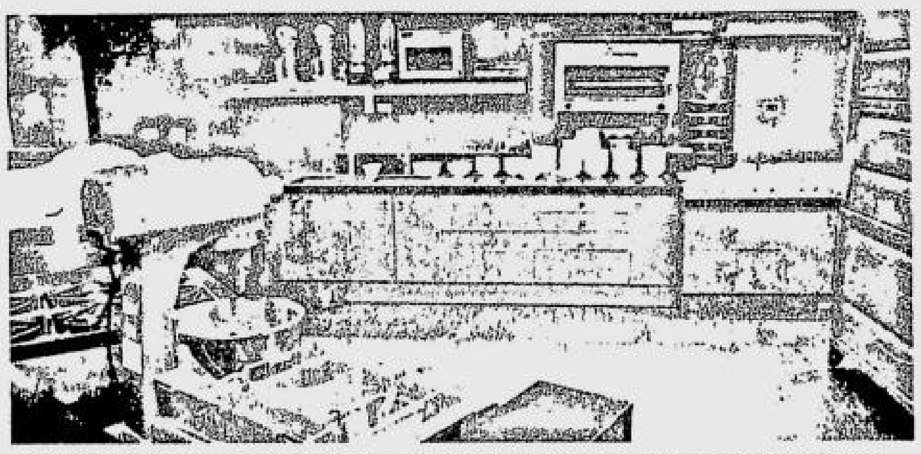
Please send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mascardo and Yague Sts., Makati City; PO Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati; or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph.

Training chefs the US way in RP

From page C1

Pfister, who now resides in Australia.

The chef praised the talent of Filipino chefs. "I love working with Philippine chefs. They are very talented and very helpful around the kitchen. Cooking is about making other people happy. Filipino chefs make it a point to make other people happy through cooking."



MIKE Borja of the Council of Chefs said, compared to demo kitchens he had seen abroad, the US Demo Kitchen was even more complete.

AMBASSADOR Kenney with CCA's Badjie Trinidad and Annie Pascual Guerrero

Cherry Walnut Muffin

Dry ingredients:

660 g bakers flour
580 g sugar
25 g baking powder
15 g salt, 80 g walnuts
170 g dried cherries
80 g glaced cherries
65 g milk powder

Wet ingredients:

140 g egg
440 g water
140 g oil or cake margarine

Mix dry ingredients. Add the wet ingredients and mix until clear. Do not over-mix. It is only necessary to combine ingredients into a smooth batter. After making mixture, prepare muffin pans lined with paper. Fill each slot ¾ full with mixture. Apply toppings if desired. Mixture will yield approximately 24 muffins. Bake at 220°C for 15-20 minutes.

Apple and Wild Blueberry Strudel

Dough mixture:

150 g strong flour
2 g salt
1 egg yolk
70 g milk
15 g butter
5 drops vinegar

Apple mixture:

800 g apples, sliced (preferably Fuji apples)
80 g sugar
1 lemon, zest and juice (To get zest, lightly scrape peel using a grater.)
1 g cinnamon
80 g apricot jam
80 g dried blueberries

Other ingredients:

50 g butter
70 g breadcrumbs
80 g butter, melted (for brushing pastry)

Preparation for baking:

Sift flour and salt and make a bay. Add egg yolk, milk, butter, and vinegar. Mix into a smooth dough. Cover and allow dough to rest for 30 minutes. Combine ingredients for apple mixture. Fry butter and breadcrumbs in a pan until light brown. Set aside melted butter. Once dough has been rested, roll it into a square pastry as thin as possible. Place on top of a cloth and carefully pull the edges until the pastry is thin and transparent (approximately 35cm x 45cm). Brush on most of the melted butter. Cover with apple mixture. Sprinkle with roasted bread crumbs. Roll into a thick roll.

Baking and finishing:

Place the roll onto a baking tray. Brush with remaining melted butter. Bake at 200°C for 30 minutes. Sprinkle with powdered sugar and cut. Strudel can be served warm with custard sauce or fresh cream.

DINING OUT

Triple-barrel treats

T.G.I.FRIDAY'S offers Triple Barrel Combos until January.

On the menu are Jack Daniel's Triple-Barrel Salmon, Chicken and Chop; Jack Daniel's Triple-Barrel Ribs, Chop and Shrimp; and Jack Daniel's Triple-Barrel Ribs, Chicken and Shrimp. Also available are Jack Daniel's Triple-Barrel Chicken, Chop and Shrimp that includes chicken, pork chop and skewered shrimp. T.G.I.Friday's has branches at Glorietta 3; Robinsons Place Malate; Tomas Morato, Quezon City; Alabang Town Center; and Sta. Lucia East.

TSOKO.NUT BATIROL will open its fourth outlet this October at the De La Rosa Carpark I to serve the central business district of Makati. The chain serves special *ensaymada* with *quezo de bola* and hot drinks. Also available are sugar-free coffee and cold drinks, Pinoy meals, *suman sa mangga*, *palabok*, spaghetti *alegui* or *jardanera*, *pan de sal* with *adobo* or corned beef, and *ube* cakes, pastries and other goodies. Tsoko.nut has branches at 2/F Waltermart Makati, corner Pasay Road and Pasong Tamo; and G/L of South Supermart in Alabang.

CRAVINGS offers dine-in guests an 18-percent discount Oct. 18. Cravings branches are located at Katipunan, Tomas Morato, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Fraser Place Serviced Residences and at the Festival Mall.

PLANET HUB is a new one-stop food and entertainment place on Pasig Boulevard Extension, Barangay Bagong Ilog, Pasig City. A brainchild of businessmen Charlie Melano and Noel Maturan, Planet Hub is operated by Super Value Franchise Concept Inc. Among the food establishments at Planet Hub are Dalagang Bukid, Planet Café, Thai Express, Belgian Waffle, Pizzito Melano, Hot & Spices and Goto Queen. Planet Hub also has the Super 24 Convenience Store and food carts selling *shawarma*, popcorn, dim sum, fruit shakes, rice toppings, sodas, beer and other drinks. Planet Hub is open for franchising of the whole complex or as a single establishment. Super Value Franchise Concept Inc. is at Fort Am Building, 170 Pasig Blvd. Extension. Call 7470268, 6334504, 6317079, or visit www.svfci.com.ph.

OUTBACK Restaurant presents Margarita Madness, 6-10 p.m., every Wednesday until Dec. 27. Women get bottomless Margarita. Outback branches are located at Alabang Town Center (7721845); Glorietta 4 (7298485) and Libis (6343801).

SOHO TEAHOUSE offers three affordable menu sets: For P3,600, dishes include Fried Soy Noodles, Barbecued Honey Pork, plain rice and iced tea; for P3,900, dishes include Fried Soy Noodles, Soho Special Chicken, *buchi* and iced tea; for P4,920 dishes include Fried Soy Noodles, Spring Rolls, *buchi* and iced tea. Each set menu is good for 30 persons. As bonus, customers get complimentary memo pads and pens. These packages are also available for delivery within the Paseo de Roxas and Ayala areas. Call 8122226, 8124576 or 8104590.

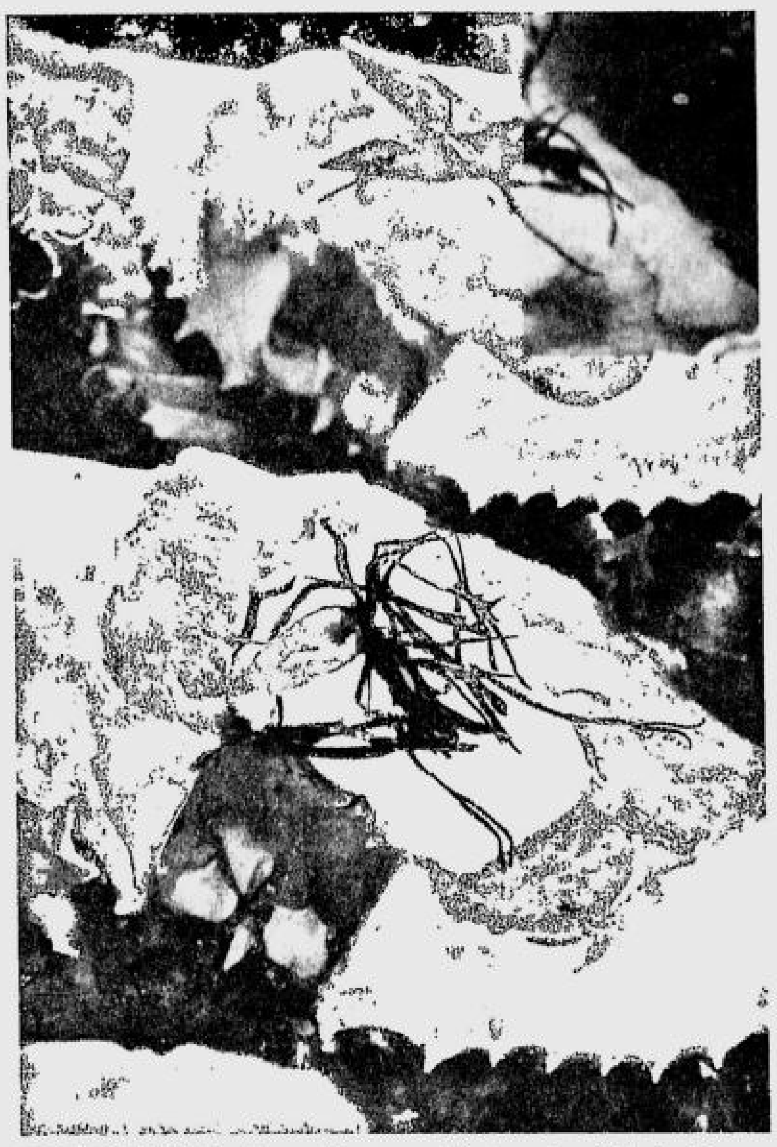
YOSHINOYA now offers Gyudon Beef Bowl for P69. The offer is available for a limited time only.

The rice meal consists of thin slices of USDA choice beef simmered with fresh onions in a special sauce, with herbs and spices. Yoshinoya branches are located at Park Square Makati, SM Megamall, Robinsons Galleria, SM North Edsa and Greenhills.

HYATT Regency Manila presents Green Tea Festival until Oct. 21 at Tempura Misono. Dishes include Green Tea Smoked Salmon, Green Tea Steamed Fish Skewer, Crab Salad with Green Tea. The restaurant also offers Green Tea Ice Cream for dessert.

HERITAGE HOTEL presents Taste and Toast of Europe until Oct. 31 at Restaurant Riviera. The festival features Europe's finest cuisine consisting of England's Roast Beef with Yorkshire Puddings and Rack of Lamb with Herb Crust, France's Salmon in Salt Crust, Sautéed Clam with White Wine, Hungary's Beef Goulash, Spain's Gazpacho Andaluz and Paella, among others. The hotel also marks Ramadan with its *halal* selection until Oct. 23, 5:30-10:30 p.m., at Restaurant Riviera. Call 8548888.

KITARO Japanese Restaurant is holding a 7th anniversary raffle promo. With Lucky 7 Prize Catch, one customer in every outlet can win a Creative MP3 player. Also at stake are 10 Kitaro gift certificates worth P500 each per branch, and 30 Pepsi gift packs (six cans of Pepsi products) per branch. Promo ends Oct 31. Raffle draw is on Nov. 7. Kitaro's latest menu additions are sushi dishes—Unatama (strips of unagi and tamago) and Spicy Salmon Gunkan; and hot dishes Yasai Itame Teppan, Nasu Tori Teriyaki, Seafood Teppanyaki.



DUSIT HOTEL'S Benjarong Restaurant features Royal Thai cuisine. This month, Chef Tun prepares dishes such as Hor Mok Poo (steamed crab meat with red curry in crab shell) and the Gung Cha Nampla (raw shrimp in fish sauce). Call 8673333.

Just what the doctor ordered

EVER HEARD OF THE Recovery Room? It's a restaurant and bar in Malolos, Bulacan, right across the Santos Clinic along McArthur Highway, hence the name.

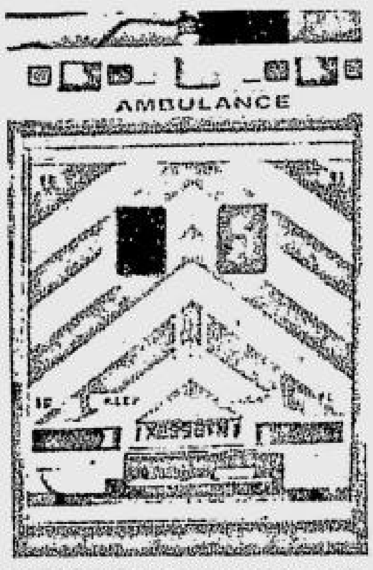
Owners Charles and Sherill Harris offer a menu with different foreign and local dishes. In keeping with the restaurant's name, menu items include Doctor's Orders, Gets the Blood Pressure Going and Under Medication.

Specialties include Grilled Lapu Lapu, Sizzling Garlic Shrimp and Mushroom, Sizzling Scallops, Sautéed or Fried Calamari, Fried Seafood Platter, Crispy Pata, Pata Tim, Bicol Express, Chicken Pigata, Beef Lengua, Crispy Ulo, Sinigang na Baboy, Tokwa con Lechon, Nilagang Baboy, Tempura, and pasta.

Open 8 a.m. to midnight, the restaurant serves breakfast, lunch, dinner and all-day snacks.

The bar, called Pharmacy, serves tequila drinks in dextrose container. Walls are decorated with hospital paraphernalia. There is even a wheelchair.

The women's restroom is called Maternity Room and the men's, Prostrate Check. Operating Room is the kitchen.



IN KEEPING with its name, walls are decorated with hospital stuff.

'Singing fruit' cooking

CLASSES

THE REGGIE ASPIRAS SCHOOL OF CULINARY Arts is conducting the following classes:

Oct. 20—The Singing Fruit—Creative and Yummy Kamote Recipes: Kamote Chowder, Roast Kamote Chicken, Ginger Brined Crown Roast with Kamote, Sarsi Pork Chops, Beef Shortribs, Kamote Flan

Oct. 21—Biscotti (all new)—Mixed Citrus, Fruit Cake, Pistachio & White Chocolate, Cinnamon, Decadent Chocolate, Honey, Biscotti di Parmigiano

Oct. 23—The Healthy Alternative—Prichon-Style Fried Turkey (all new)—Homemade Pancakes, Sauces and Condiments, a meal in one

Oct. 25—Boursin—Make Your Own Boursin (all new)—Two Versions (Garlic and Pepper); Boursin Chicken, Boursin Pasta, Boursin Mushrooms, Boursin Lamb Chops, Salisbury Steaks with Boursin; side dishes

Call us for our other classes: Manang Rocks for Christmas (holiday cooking classes for household cooks/helpers); Entertaining for the Holidays (the catering series—for caterers and those who love to entertain); Things to Make, Give or Sell this Christmas.

Call 9289296 or 9273008.

Bartending, coffee and baking basics

The Maya Kitchen is conducting a class on "Bartending" Oct. 21, 2-6 p.m. It will cover Basic Tools, Classifications of Wine and Spirits, Types of Bar Glasses and Usage Mixing, Serving of Popular Cocktail Drinks, including garnishing. There will be wine tasting and snacks.

"Basic Culinary," Oct. 24-27, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., will teach important cooking techniques including proper hygiene, sanitation and safety. Actual preparation of dishes from appetizer to dessert is included. Enrollees get a free "Mix and Match" cookbook.

"Home Bakery Business (Advanced Bakery Prod.)," Oct. 25-27, 2-6 p.m., provides an overview of career opportunities. Learn baking ingredients, commercial methods, etc.

"Free Baking Demo" will be held Oct. 27, 4-5 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Those interested should present three empty packages of any Maya Hotcake or Cake Mixes.

"Coffee Basic 101 (Barista Course), Oct. 28, 2-6 p.m., covers history, coffee process, troubleshooting, etc. Maya's roastmaster will demonstrate and explain techniques to perfect froth; preparation of popular hot and cold coffee concoctions.

Visit the Maya Kitchen, Tuesday-Saturday, 8/F Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road), Makati City. Call 8921185 or 8925011 loc 108. E-mail mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph.

Islam's holiest month ends . . .

From page C4

weight is maintained, no loss or gain.

- Considering the long hours of fasting, one should not consume fast-digesting food. Try slow-digesting foods like grains and seeds—wheat, oats, beans, lentils, dates, almonds, bananas, unpolished rice. Slow-digesting foods last longer and thus minimize hunger.
- Foods must be well-balanced. Avoid fried and fatty foods, sugar-rich foods, overeating, and too much tea, especially at Suhor. Tea induces urine. Urine disposes of valuable minerals, salts the body needs during the day.

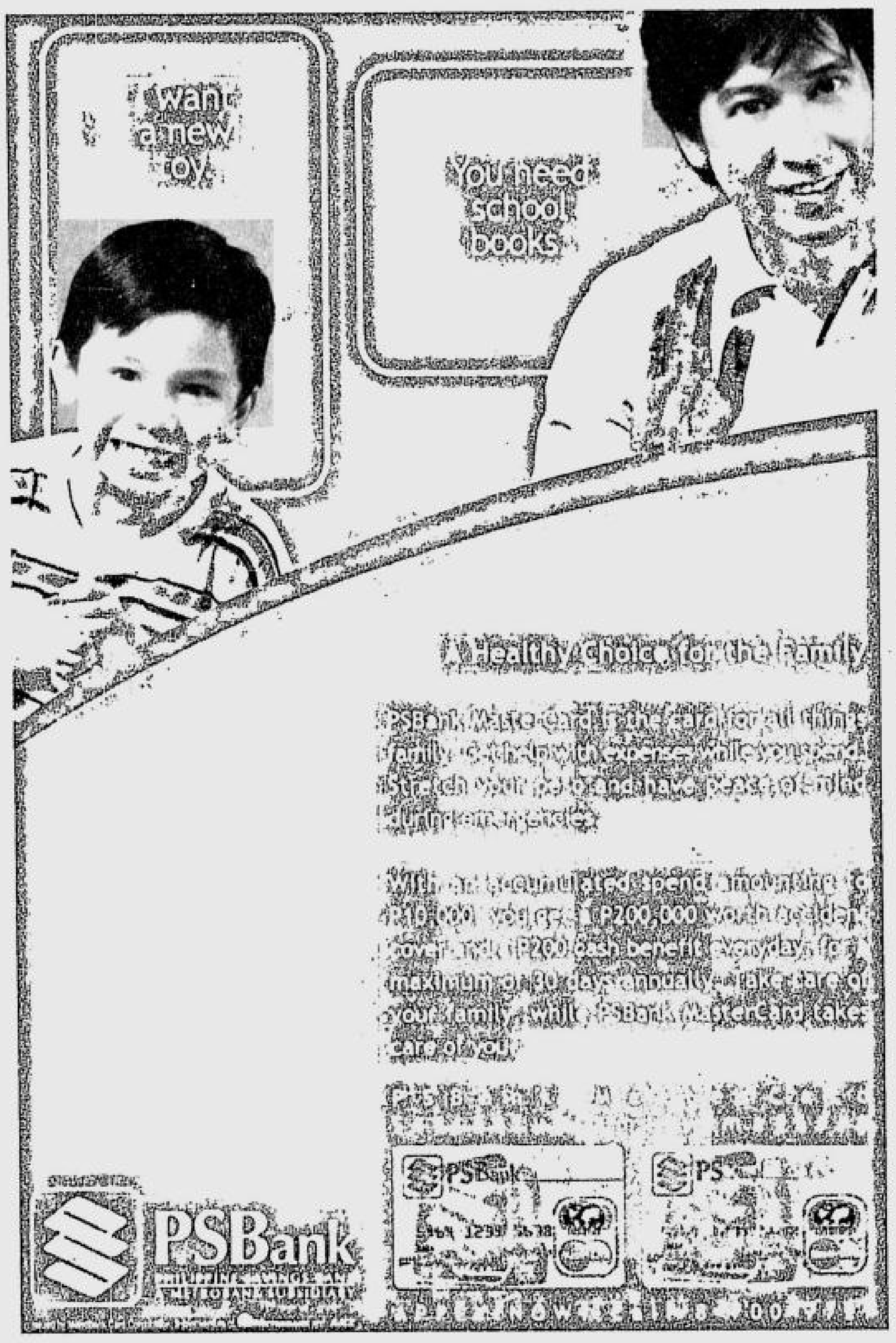
When Ramadan is over...

"The first day of the succeeding month, this year Oct. 23 or 24, depending on the sighting of the moon, there will be great celebrations all over the world. The festival of breaking the fast is known as Eid'l Fitr, three to five days of celebration (depending on the country.)

This is a time when houses are opened and food is shared with all those willing to partake of it, blessings are shared, people are welcomed to one's home. The sharing of food, after all, is the sincerest gesture of brotherhood."

To all our Muslim brothers and sisters celebrating Eid'l Fitr, *Selamat Hari Raya!*

E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph



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Islam's holiest month ends with Eid'l Fitr

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

I WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO MEET Datu Tahir Sinsuat Lidasan and Madrigal Sinsuat through *halal* chef Abdulatif "Tato" Sangcupan.

While at the Office of Muslim Affairs (an agency under the Office of the President), they so graciously and patiently answered my most infantile questions on Ramadan and the feast of Eid'l Fitr.

What is Ramadan?

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and the holiest month of Islam.

It is the month [when the] Holy Qur'an was sent down, as a guide to [humankind] and a clear guidance and judgment [so that humankind will distinguish right from wrong]. "Whoever among you witnesses the month of Ramadan should fast through it." (Qurran—2:183)

When does Ramadan start?

For this year, based on the lunar calendar, it started Sept. 23 and, in other countries, Sept. 24.

Explain the fast and why do Muslims fast?

The Ramadan fast is a month-long day fast, from dawn to dusk. Fasting during this month is often thought to burn away figuratively all sins. It is the time when the gates of heaven are opened and the gates of hell are closed. Ramadan comes from the word *ramd*, which literally means to burn.

Fasting is one of the bases of the five pillars of Islam. Ramadan is the month of cleansing one's physical, emotional and spiritual self. It is a time when one just eats for sustenance.

Fasting does not only mean the denial of food but the non-indulgence in luxuries and excesses as well. We give up what we normally enjoy, like watching movies or indulging in lavish celebrations or parties. We, too, keep a low profile."

Give us an idea of a typical day in the month of Ramadan.

Apart from the day fast, we do the usual *salat* (prayers). There are five *salats* in Islam. The dawn prayer, *fajr*; midday/noon, *dhuhr*; afternoon, *asr*; sunset, *magrib*; night, *isha'a*. During Ramadan, there is *tarawi* (2-3 hours of prayer of praise), done after *magrib*.

When does one know that the fast can be broken?

In the tradition of the Prophet Mohammed (Praise and Peace Be Upon Him), once one can no longer distinguish a strand of your hair, then that means the fast can be broken. Pull out a strand of your hair. When it is no longer visible, that means the sun has set and the fast is broken. One can eat when the sun is out. In modern times though, we use GPS (global positioning system).

HALAL Technical Assistance Unit chief Madrigal Sinsuat; Datu Tahir Sinsuat Lidasan (Bureau of External Relations director, Office of Muslim Affairs); *halal* chef Abdulatif "Tato" Sangcupan

Are there certain types of food consumed during Ramadan or preferred food to break the fast?

Not really. But there are food products that are said to be good for you to take once the fast is broken. In the Philippines, we take bread. In Iraq and Iran, flat bread, while in Saudi, they take dates, which are very significant.

Chef Tato speaks of the Ramadan diet: "Breaking fast with dates and praying before *Iftar* (Arabic for fast-breaking meal served at the end of the day during Ramadan, act of eating after fasting) are both mentioned in the Hadith literature. Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) said, 'If any one of you is fasting, let him break his fast with dates.'

"The Prophet (PBUH) used to break his fast by eating dates before offering *magrib* and, if ripe dates were not available, he used to substitute dried grapes.

"The body benefits from the high sugar content of dates. The sugar of dates travels quickly to the liver and is converted into energy more quickly than other nutrients. After fasting, Muslims have immediate need for energy for *tarawi* and to sustain them till *Iftar*.

"Dates have a special place in Islam and among the Prophet's (PBUH) frequently consumed food. For this reason, the benefits of dates are both physical and spiritual. The act of following the Prophet's (PBUH) tradition is one way of connecting and remembering him. The Prophet (PBUH) said a house without dates had no food. It is one of the oldest cultivated fruits, known as the 'bread of the desert'. The date palm is regarded as tree of life."

Chef Tato shares fasting guidelines so one may comfortably and fully enjoy the spiritual benefits of Ramadan.

- The diet should be simple and should not differ from the normal diet.
- The diet should be such that normal

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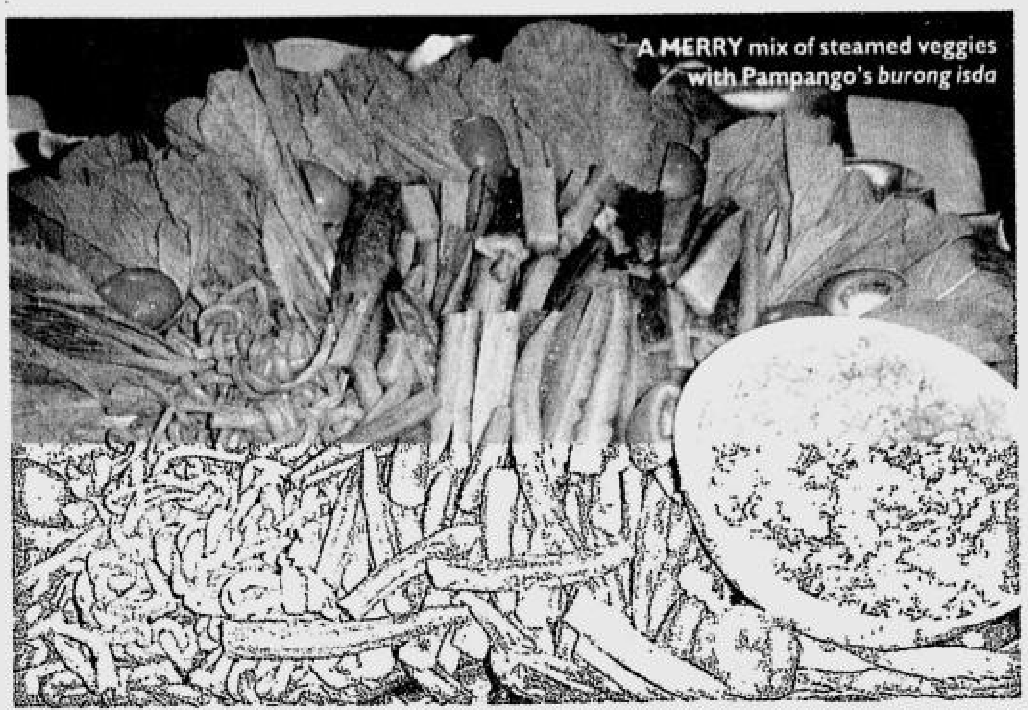
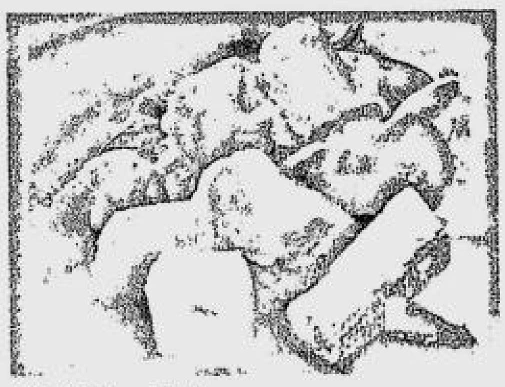


A MERRY mix of steamed veggies with Pampango's *burong isda*

So 'manyaman' is this Kapampangan festival



KINILAW na Tanigue

The 2-year-old event gives guests a taste of Pampanga's various gastronomic delights

Text and photos by Vangie Baga-Reyes

OVER THE WEEKEND, PAMpanga bolstered its claim to dominance in the gastronomic arena with its two-day food festival aptly dubbed "Manyaman" (Kapampangan for "delicious").

The festival paid tribute to the province's rich culinary tradition.

Now on its second year, the Manyaman festival is celebrated by various resorts, hotels and restaurants in the area, giving guests a taste of the province's various gastronomic delights.

The Fontana Resort and Country Club in Clark, Pampanga, participating in the festival for the first time, had a wide array of delicacies laid out on a long buffet table by the poolside.

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Sylvia Reynoso-Gala
Gold Medalist, Academia de Gastronomos, Madrid, Spain – 1964
Graduate : Full Course at Thai Cooking School, Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
Studied in 6 Cooking Schools in Hongkong

Morella Reynoso Gala
Valedictorian, I.H.M.E.S. International Hotel School, United Kingdom – 1992
Studied Cooking at Le Cordon Bleu, London
✓ ALSO TEACHES AT # 25 GLADIOLA ST. UPPER Q.M., BAGUIO CITY TEL. # (074) 444-8844

Ernest Reynoso Gala
Graduate : Italian Institute for Advanced Culinary & Pastry Arts under Chef Director John Nocita, Soverato, Calebria, Italy
Graduate : Le Moulin de Mougins Alain Llorca, Cannes, France
Graduate : Ecole Ritz Escoffier, Paris Ritz Hotel, France
Graduate : Ecole Lenotre Pattisserie, Plaisir Cedex, France
Graduate : Full Course at Thai Cooking School, Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
Studied at Chopstick and Hongkong Town Gas Culinary Schools

OCT 19 THUR 1:30 - 4:30PM - CHINESE COOKING: DIMSUM STYLE PORK SPARERIBS - SPICY CHICKEN FEET, SHRIMPS ON TOAST; BUCHI W/ SESAME SEEDS: AUTHENTIC HONGKONG - CHINESE CONGEE W/ DIFFERENT TOPPINGS. FISH FILLET; PORK SZECHUAN VEGETABLES; BOLA-BOLA; PORK LIVER, KIDNEY, PIG-STOMACH **P1,800. BY SYLVIA**

OCT 20 FRI 1:30 - 5:30PM - AUTHENTIC ITALIAN COOKING 1. BY ERNEST. P1,800. MOZARELLA IN CAROZZA (FRIED CHEESE SANDWICHES); RISOTTO CON SCAMPI (RICE W/ PRAWNS); POLLENTA PASTICICIATTA (CORNMEAL W/ MUSHROOM WHITE SAUCE); PETTI DI POLLO ALLA BOLOGNESE (BONED CHIOCKEN BREAST W/ PROSCIUTTO & CHEESE); BISTECA ALLA PIZZAIOLA (BEEF TENDERLOIN STEAKS W/ TOMATOES & GARLIC); CASSATA ALLA SICILIAN (SICILIAN LAYERED CAKE W/ RICOTTA CHEESE & CHOCOLATE ICING).

OCT 21 SAT 1:30 - 5:00PM - BUSINESS BAKESHOP BESTSELLERS! BIG UNIFORM SIZED FROZEN UP TO 6 MONTHS SILVANAS (MINI SANS RIVAL); BRAZO DE MERCEDES; CLASSIC CHOCOLATE MOUSSE CAKE; MACAPUNO PANDAN CAKE W/ MAGNOLIA GOLD BUTTER ICING. P1,800. BY MORELLA

OCT 22 SUN 1:30 - 5:00PM - REYNOSO-GALA & ARAULLO KAKANINI MELTS-IN-THE-MOUTH SPECIAL RICE BIBINGKA; SAPIN-SAPIN ESPECIAL; DELICIOUS EASY TO MAKE RICE SUMAN; HOMEMADE HOPIA W/ MONGO OR UBE FILLING. BONUS RECIPE: APONG METYANG'S CASSAVA CAKE. **P1,800. BY MORELLA**

OCT 23 MON 1:30 - 5:00PM MONEY-MAKING HOTEL & BAKESHOP BESTSELLERS! CHOCO LAVA CAKES (CHOCO CENTERS WILL OOZE OUT); "TARTUFO" (ITALIAN DOME CHOCOLATE COVERED ICECREAM CAKE W/ CHOCO CAKE BASE CAN BE FROZEN FOR A MONTH OR LONGER). CREAM PUFFS W/ BAVARIAN & CHOCO FILLING W/ GLAZES; THE YUMMIEST OF NEW YORK RESTAURANT SCHOOL CHEF INSTRUCTOR, LORRIE REYNOSO'S BAKED CHEESECAKE. **P1,800. BY MORELLA**

OCT 24 TUE 1:30 - 5:00PM BEST SELLER OVEN BAKED CHICKEN PIES IN MUFFIN CUPS; FLAKY EMPANADA; MELTS-IN-THE-MOUTH MAMON; MAGNOLIA GOLD BUTTER SLICES, PUTO PAO. BONUS RECIPES OF MACAROONS; PUTO FLOUR UBE & TRI-COLORED PUTO **P1,800. BY MORELLA**

OCT 25 WED 1:30 - 5:00PM - UBE CHIFFON CAKE; ROCKY ROAD; MOIST CHOCOLATE CAKE; FOOD FOR THE GODS & WALNUT BROWNIES. PLUS TIPS ON CONVERTING CAKES INTO JELLY ROLLS & MUFFINS. DELICIOUS CAKES SOLD IN TOP BAKESHOPS! ALL CAKES W/ DIFFERENT ICINGS! **P1,800. BY MORELLA**

OCT 26 THU 1:30 - 5:00PM - SOFTEST DOUGHNUTS FOR BUSINESS! NO OVEN NOR SPECIAL EQUIPMENT NEEDED. INCLUDES CHOCOLATE & MARBLED DOUGHNUTS W/ SEVERAL FILLINGS, ICINGS, DIPS. PLUS BONUS RECIPES OF THICK SPANISH CHOCOLATE & CHURROS **P1,800. BY MORELLA**

OCT 27 FRI 1:00 - 5:00PM - 5 POPULAR PIES & CAKES FOR CHRISTMAS! FRSH BUCO PIE; BANANA CREAM PIE; NO BAKE GRAHAM LAYERED MONGO ICE BOX CAKE; LIGHT BANANA LOAF CRUNCH SLICES SOLD IN TOP BAKESHOPS. BONUS: OATMEAL BUTTER CRUST BLUEBERRY BARS. P1,800. BY MORELLA

OCT 28 SAT 1:30 - 5:30PM - ALL NEW, AUTHENTIC ITALIAN COOKING COURSE 2 - BY ERNEST. P1,800. VERY DELICIOUS SICILIAN SALAD W/ CREAMY GARLIC DRESSING; STUFFED MUSHROOMS W/ ITALIAN SAUSAGE, BASIL, TOMATOES, MOZARELLA IN WHITE SAUCE; FONDUTA (CHEESE DIP W/ BREAD TRIANGLES). GRILLED HUGE MONTEREY PORK CHOPS W/ MARSALA; PAN FRIED TENDER MONTEREY LAMB CHOPS W/ GARLIC-BAKED TOMATOES; BABY CARROTS, POTATOES, CAPERS & GREEN OLIVES. YOU WILL LOVE THESE FAMILY STYLE RECIPES SERVED IN ITALIAN RESTAURANTS!

NOV 6 MON 1:30 - 5:00PM - 2 KINDS OF ROASTBEEF - MONTEREY STANDING RIB ROAST & BACON-WRAPPED BONELES ROAST W/ GRAVY; CREMA DE FRUTA; SIZZLING SHRIMPS IN GARLIC SAUCE. FRIED SQUID RINGS; CHICKEN ALEXANDER; SEAFOOD MEDLEY SOUP SERVED ON CRUSTY BREAD BOWL FROM FRENCH BAKER. **P1,800. BY ERNEST**

NOV 7 TUE & 9 THU 1:30 - 4:30PM - MAKE MONEY BY LEARNING 15 DELICIOUS RECIPES IN 2 LESSONS. P2,600. INCLUDES INGREDIENTS. A SPECIAL FRUIT CAKE, 3 VERSIONS OF BROWNIES (DOUBLE CHOCOLATE FUDGE, CHOCO CARAMEL FUDGE, WALNUT-TOPPED DARK & LIGHT BARS); 5 DIFFERENT KINDS OF WELL-KNOWN MUFFINS; 5 DIFFERENT KINDS OF CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES, MACADAMIA NUT COOKIES. **BY ERNEST**

NOV 8 WED 1:30 - 5:30PM - ALL HOLIDAY RECIPES! ROAST BUTTERBALL TURKEY W/ HAM-RAISIN STUFFING; RIBBON PASTA W/ WILD MUSHROOMS IN CREAM SAUCE; CENTURY TUNA FISH CAKES W/ SAUTEED BACON-SPINACH, GLAZED W/ ONIONS; MAGNOLIA CHICKEN RICE PILAF W/ OLIVES; BAKED NEW YORK CHEESECAKE #2; WHITE FRUITCAKE. P1,800. BY ERNEST

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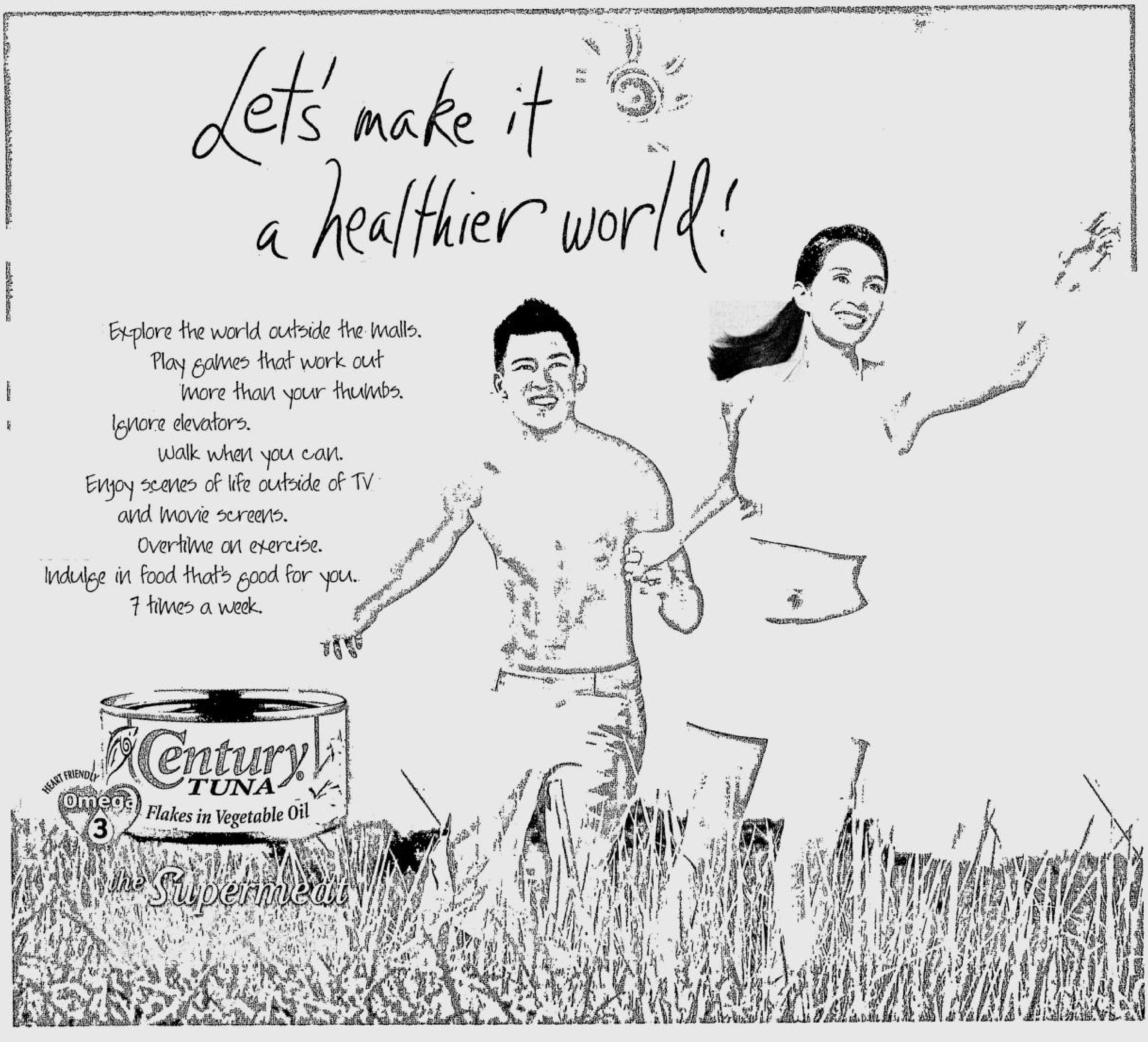
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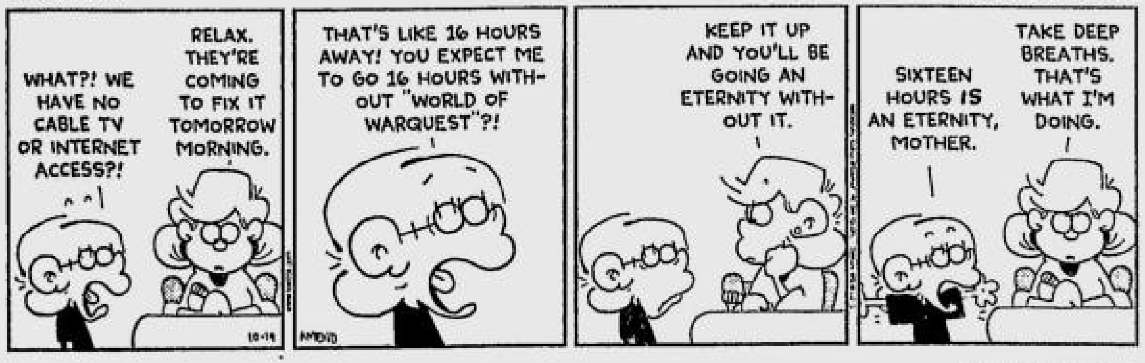
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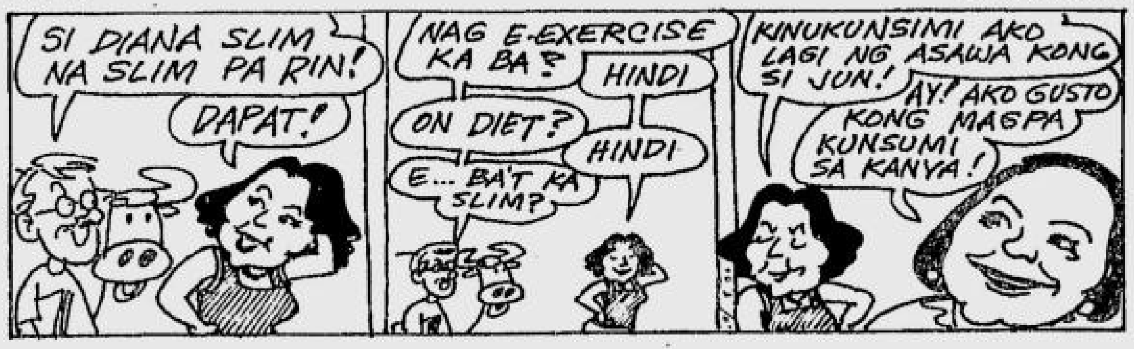
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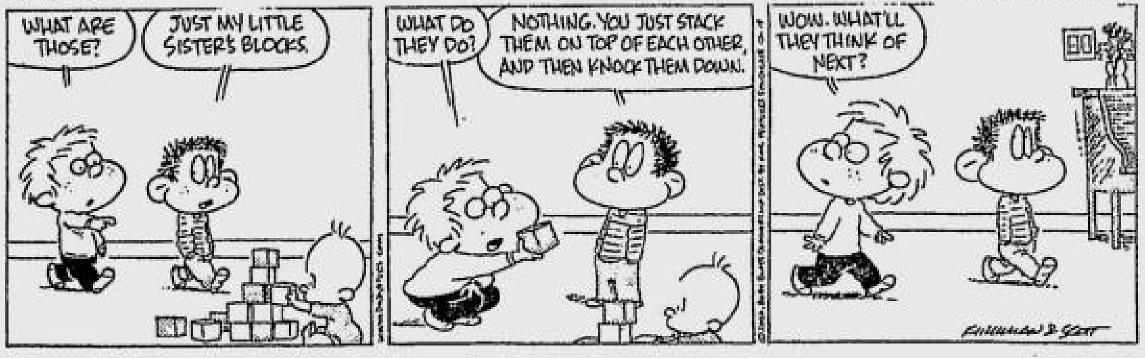
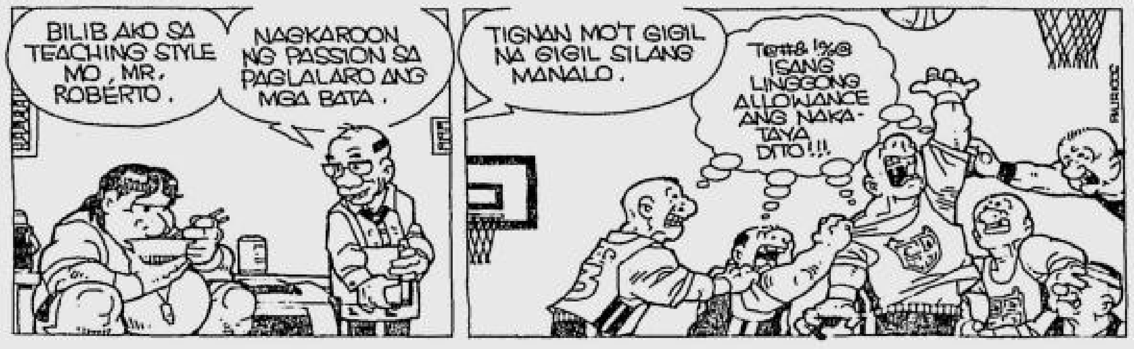
HINDI
E... BA'T KA SLIM?
KINUKUNSIMI AKO LAGI NG ASAWA KONG SI JUN!
AY! AKO GUSTO KONG MAGPA KUNSUMI SA KANYA!

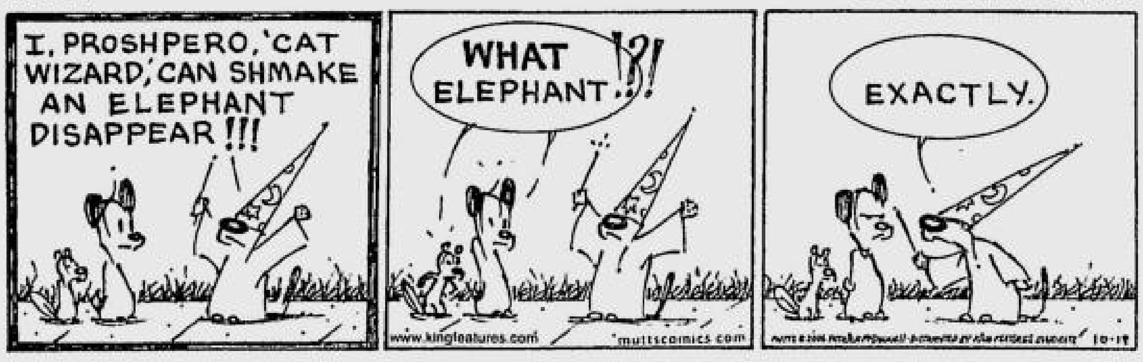
BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT ARE THOSE?
JUST MY LITTLE SISTER'S BLOCKS.
WHAT DO THEY DO?
NOTHING. YOU JUST STACK THEM ON TOP OF EACH OTHER, AND THEN KNOCK THEM DOWN.
WOW. WHAT'LL THEY THINK OF NEXT?

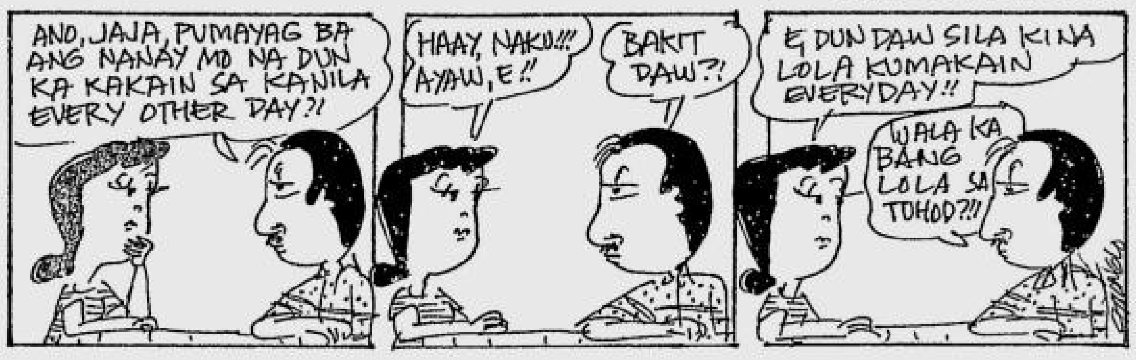
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


BILIB AKO SA TEACHING STYLE MO, MR. ROBERTO.
NAGKAROON NG PASSION SA PAGLALARO ANG MGA BATA.
TIGNAN MO'T GIGIL NA GIGIL SILANG MANALO.
ISANG LINGGONG ALLOWANCE ANG NAKATAYA DITO!!!

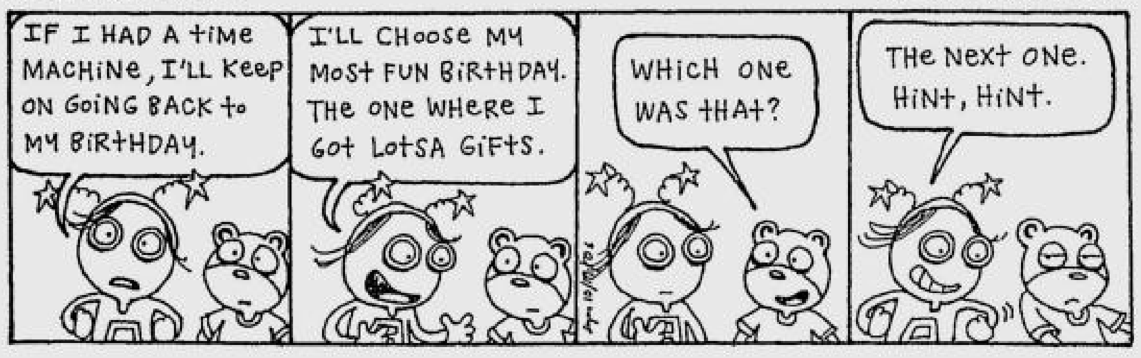
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I, PROSHPERO, 'CAT WIZARD,' CAN SHMAKE AN ELEPHANT DISAPPEAR!!!
WHAT ELEPHANT..!?!
EXACTLY.
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com

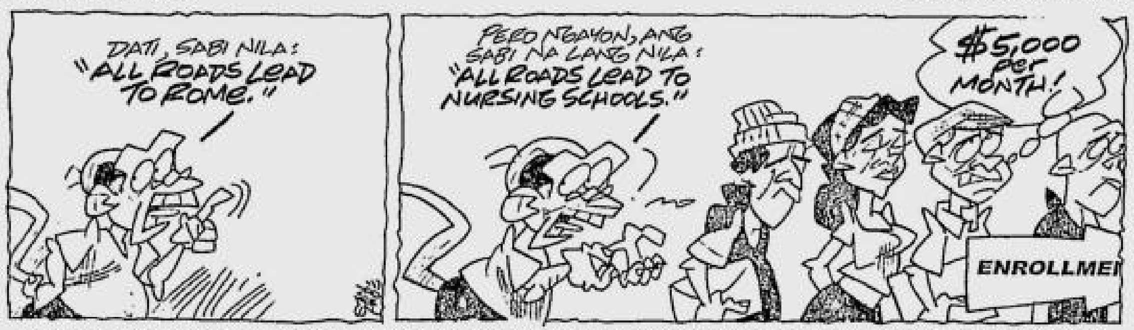
LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANO, JAJA, PUMAYAG BA ANG NANAY MO NA DUN KA KAKAIN SA KANILA EVERY OTHER DAY?!
HAAY, NAKU!!! AYAW, E!!
BAKIT DAW?!
E, DUN DAW SILA KINA LOLA KUMAKAIN EVERYDAY!!
WALA KA BANG LOLA SA TOHOD?!!

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO

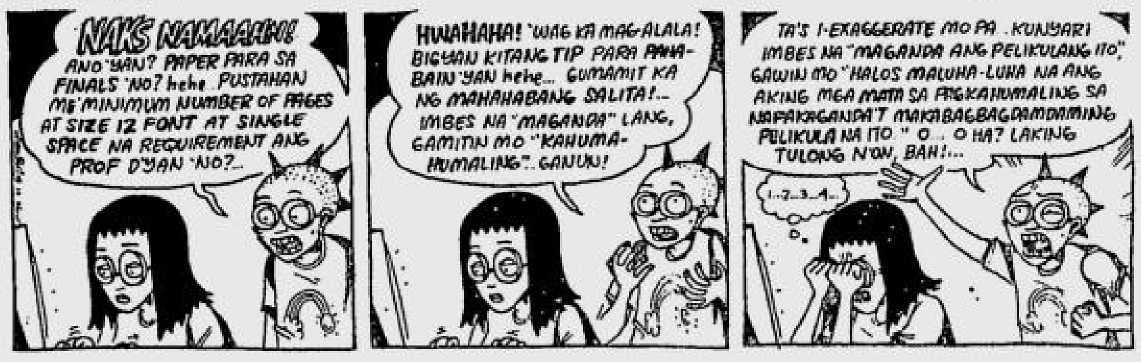

IF I HAD A time MACHINE, I'LL Keep ON GoiNG BACK to MY BiRtHDAY.
I'LL CHoose MY Most FUN BiRtHDAY. The one WHere I Got LotSA GiFts.
WHiCH one WAS tHAt?
The Next oNe. HiNt, HiNt.

DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS

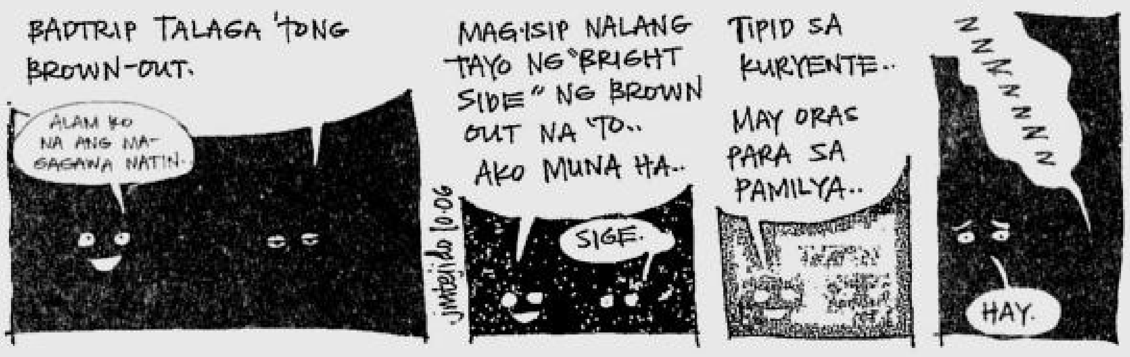

DATI, SABI NILA: "ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME."
PERO NGAYON, ANG SABI NA LANG NILA: "ALL ROADS LEAD TO NURSING SCHOOLS."
$5,000 per MONTH!
ENROLLME

AVAILABLE NA RIN ANG DIVINE COMEDY COMICS SA NATIONAL BOOKSTORE AT PHILIPPINE CHRISTIAN BOOKSTORE

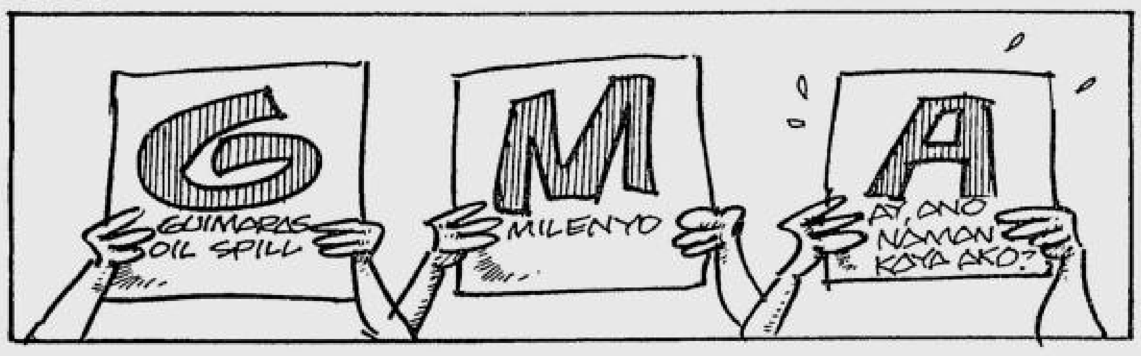
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


NAKS NAMAAAN!! ANO 'YAN? PAPER PARA SA FINALS 'NO? hehe. PUSTAHAN ME'MINIMUM NUMBER OF PAGES AT SIZE 12 FONT AT SINGLE SPACE NA REQUIREMENT ANG PROF D'YAN 'NO?..
HWAHAHA! 'WAG KA MAG-ALALA! BIGYAN KITANG TIP PARA PANA-BAIN 'YAN hehe... GUMAMIT KA NG MAHAHABANG SALITA!.. IMBES NA "MAGANDA" LANG, GAMITIN MO "KAHUMA-HUMALING"..GANUN!
TA'S I-EXAGGERATE MO PA. KUNYARI IMBES NA "MAGANDA ANG PELIKULANG ITO", GAWIN MO "HALOS MALUHA-LUHA NA ANG AKING MGA MATA SA PAGKAHUMALING SA NAPAKAGANDA'T NAKABAGBAGDAMDAMING PELIKULA NA ITO." O... O HA? LAKING TULONG N'ON, BAH!...
1..2..3..4..

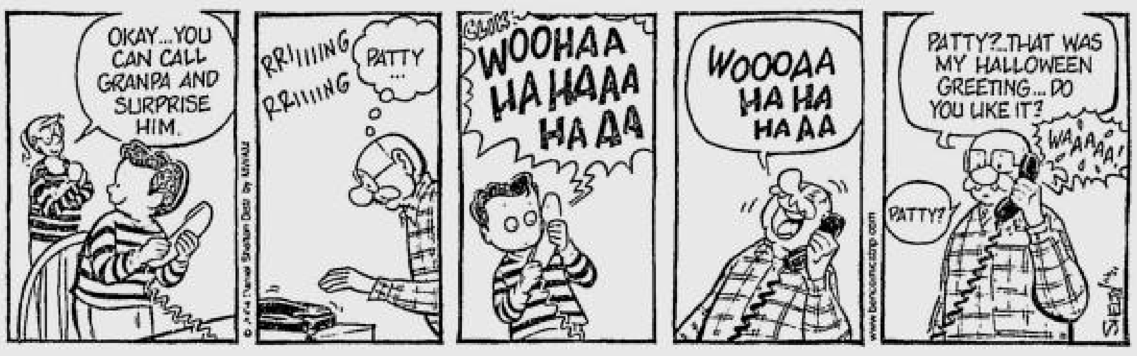
MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BADTRIP TALAGA 'TONG BROWN-OUT.
ALAM KO NA ANG MAGAGAWA NATIN.
MAG-ISIP NALANG TAYO NG "BRIGHT SIDE" NG BROWN OUT NA 'TO..
AKO MUNA HA..
SIGE.
TIPID SA KURYENTE..
MAY ORAS PARA SA PAMILYA..
ZZZZZZZ
HAY.

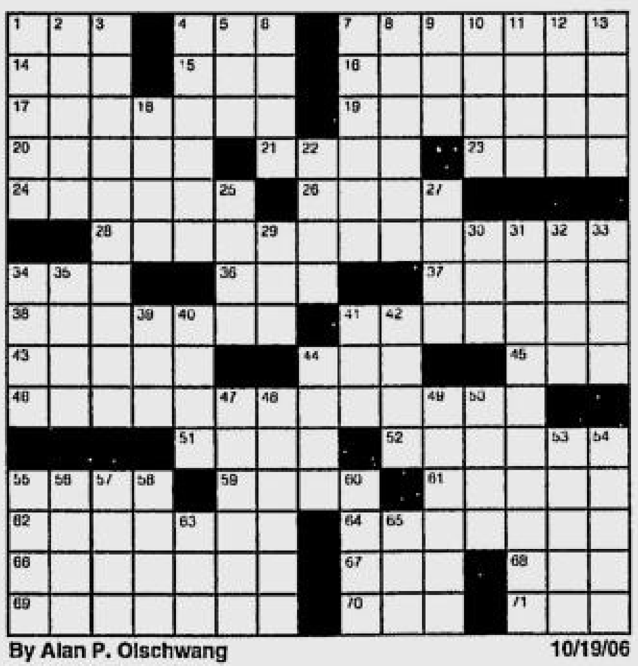
TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


G
GUIMARAS OIL SPILL
M
MILENYO
A
AT ANO NAMAN KAYA AKO?

BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


OKAY...YOU CAN CALL GRANPA AND SURPRISE HIM.
RRIIIING RRIIIING
PATTY ...
WOOHAA HA HAAA HA AA
WOOOAA HA HA HA AA
PATTY?..THAT WAS MY HALLOWEEN GREETING...DO YOU LIKE IT?
WAAAAA!
PATTY?

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
10/19/06

ACROSS
1 Puncture starter?
4 Pas' mates
7 Cut off or remove
14 "Gentle __"
15 Every bit
16 Folds
17 Pasta preference
19 Start of Erin Majors quote
20 Winter hazard
21 Small songbird
23 Desiccated
24 Dreadful
26 Royal Peruvian
28 Part 2 of quote
34 Small, low island
36 Heading for Vegas?
37 Tractor man
38 Property recipient
41 Enticed
43 Totaled
44 Alain's affirmative
45 UFO crew
46 Part 3 of quote
51 Organic compound
52 Give fizz to
55 Basilica section
59 Tilled
61 Evaluates
62 End of quote
64 Conceited one
66 Mesabi Range output
67 Marshland
68 Of the ear: pref.
69 Argues in an orderly way
70 Absolutely!
71 Fuzzy fiber ends

DOWN
1 Put to shame
2 Yo-Yo Ma's instrument
3 Present but not obvious
4 Predatory insect
5 Road-sign abbr.
6 Offed
7 Stress
8 Offshoot
9 D.C. honcho
10 Bounders
11 Wight or Skye
12 Fortuneteller
13 Latin being
18 Architect Saarinen
22 Spanish rivers
25 Edit out
27 Verdi heroine
29 Highlands' refusal
30 Just out
31 Baby boomers, e.g.
32 Man from Manchester
33 Cravings
34 Astronomer Sagan
35 Jai __
39 Ordinal ending
40 Jot down
41 Smallest team
42 Actress Hayworth
44 Goggle at
47 Be intrinsic
48 Hangman's knots
49 Wading birds
50 QED part
53 Seed coat
54 Prohibit, legally
55 Type of rain or test
56 Cut back
57 Elitist
58 Buchanan or Ferber
60 Fly in the face of
63 Grouped merchandise
65 Holy smokes!

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

M	O	L	E	■	G	A	T	E	■	A	P	O	R	T
O	R	A	L	■	I	M	A	C	■	D	A	M	E	S
S	L	I	M	■	R	I	C	H	■	A	S	I	D	E
S	E	C	O	N	D	T	H	O	U	G	H	T	S	■
■	■	■	■	E	L	Y	■	■	M	I	A	■	■	■
S	T	R	O	V	E	■	O	R	E	O	■	F	I	G
I	R	A	T	E	■	S	A	U	K	■	D	A	N	E
M	A	J	O	R	M	I	S	G	I	V	I	N	G	S
B	I	A	S	■	O	L	E	S	■	A	R	G	O	T
A	T	H	■	B	I	O	S	■	A	D	E	S	T	E
■	■	■	G	A	S	■	■	D	R	E	■	■	■	■
■	I	D	E	N	T	I	T	Y	C	R	I	S	I	S
S	C	A	N	T	■	G	I	N	A	■	M	I	L	A
T	O	R	R	E	■	O	V	E	N	■	A	V	E	R
E	N	T	E	R	■	R	O	S	E	■	M	A	X	I

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10/19/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're highly independent. You do your own thing (and others let you). Nevertheless, you're not afraid to take responsibility for others. You're highly dependable. You're a loyal friend and a faithful family member. Be open to exciting new beginnings this year. Each door you open will lead to another door, which leads to another door, and so on. You're starting a new cycle.

Birthdate of: Evander Holyfield, boxing champ; John Lithgow, actor; Ty Pennington, TV host

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Close friendships and partnerships can really deepen today in terms of affection and mutual admiration. Everything seems to be more important and definitely more intense!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): If you fall in love with someone today, it will be a memorable relationship. Relationships that begin now have a fated quality to them (right out of the movies).

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You might feel that you're madly in love with someone. Relationships and romantic contacts are unusually intense today. (This is definitely good diary material!)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): There's a strong energy in the air today. One good way to use it is to make where you live look more beautiful. Get rid of what you no longer need. Streamline your belongings.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your conversations with others definitely have vigor and energy today! You mean what you say, and you say what you mean. (Believe me, people will hear you.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): When shopping today, you feel practically obsessed about buying something. Wait until late in the day to shop. Avoid major purchases in the morning and early afternoon.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): It seems like all your emotions about practically anything are deepened today. You feel a strong need to belong to another person or even to a group.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're willing to work on behalf of others today. You have a desire to relieve the causes of suffering for someone. You can't go wrong, because what goes around comes around.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You have an opportunity to deepen your bond with a friend today. You might turn a casual acquaintance into a budding relationship that lasts a lifetime

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): If someone in authority is trying to dodge an important issue, you'll come at this person again and again. You want to get at the real truth about something. (It's important to you.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Political, religious and philosophical discussions are quite intense today. Keep in mind that you can't reason anyone out of something he or she wasn't reasoned into in the first place.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Love relationships are very intense today. If you're in love with someone, everything seems to be "way-out" in a wonderful, passionate way.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

							4	9
	5	7	4	9				6
	1		2					
	2	1						
	3						8	
						3	6	
					6		7	
4				3	8	5	9	
3	9							

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/19

©2006 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

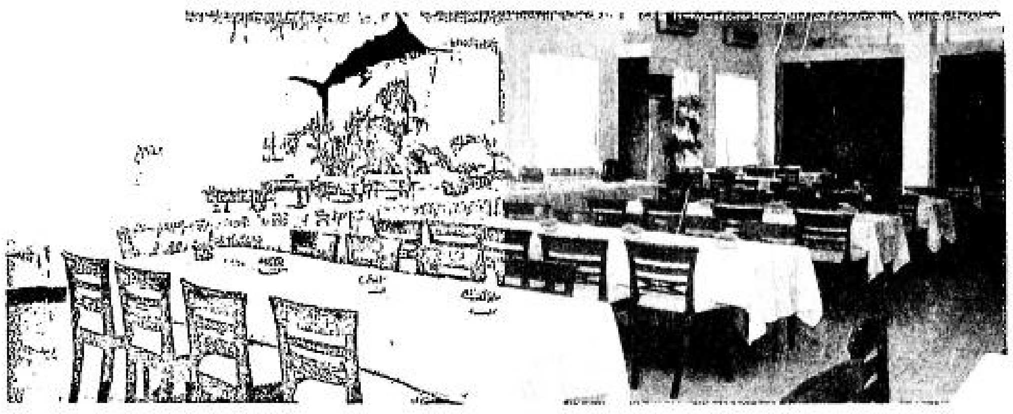
Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

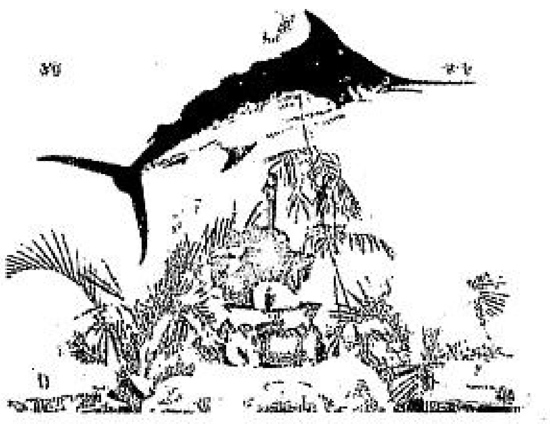
9	7	6	4	1	5	8	2	3
5	3	2	9	6	8	7	1	4
8	1	4	3	2	7	5	6	9
7	6	5	2	8	4	3	9	1
3	9	8	6	7	1	2	4	5
4	2	1	5	3	9	6	7	8
1	4	7	8	5	2	9	3	6
2	8	3	1	9	6	4	5	7
6	5	9	7	4	3	1	8	2

Difficulty Level ★★★

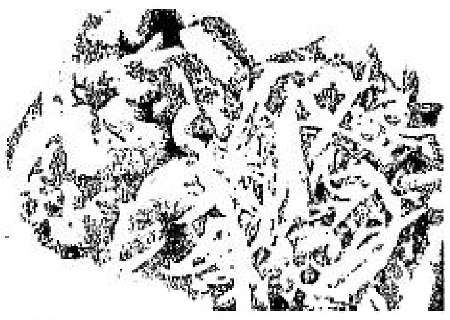
SOMETHIN' Fishy's Fresh Catch of the Day Combo Platter



THE SECOND floor was made more formal and elegant for themed parties, including weddings, debuts, baptism and corporate events.



STUFFED blue marlin makes an interesting centerpiece.



TUNA Steak

When you are angling for value for your money

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by August de la Cruz

FOUR YEARS INTO THE BUSINESS and Somethin' Fishy remains a "seafood authority," constantly offering a variety of fresh catch of the day cooked in a way only true-blue anglers know.

"I believe people go to Somethin' Fishy for the seafood dishes we offer because they know the owners are anglers who more or less know how they want their seafood to be done and served," says Emma Rose Policarpio, president of Somethin' Fishy and award-winning angler who competes both locally and internationally.

"Our customers have tried and enjoyed our swordfish, which is better than blue marlin. When they are served this fish (grilled, sizzling, fried with creamy gravy or skewered), they are assured that is the best way to cook it."

Through the years, Somethin' Fishy's menu has always consisted primarily of fish—grilled, fried, steamed, marinated, sautéed or stewed. You can opt for tuna, salmon, catfish, swordfish, *plapla*, *lapu-lapu*, eel, mackerel or *bangus*.

But clams, prawns, squids, crabs, sea urchins and other seafood are also available, served sizzling, cooked in oil or coconut milk, or prepared as sushi or sashimi.

Bestsellers are the Inihaw na Pusit, Pinais na Alimasag, Crispy Buntot ng Tuna, Grilled Salmon Belly and Fresh Oysters by the Bucket.

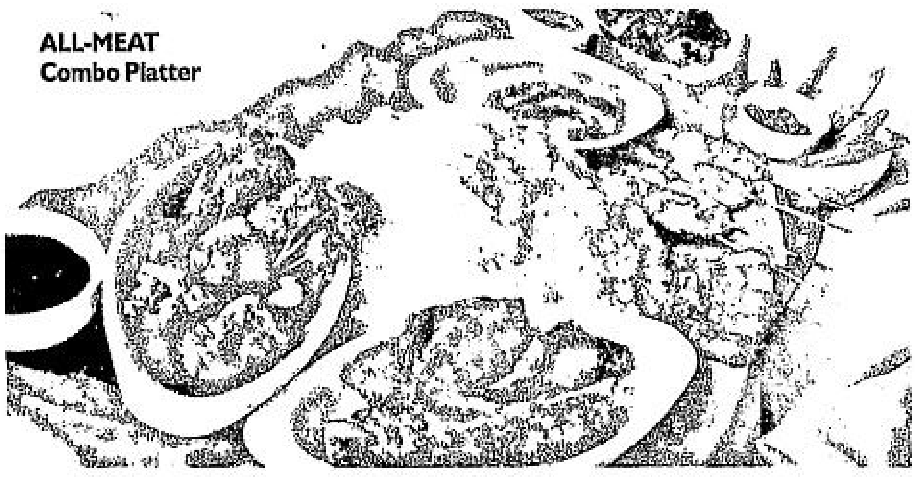
New additions Fresh Oysters and Pinais na Alimasag became instant hit with families and *barkadas*.

"Every quarter we try to change the menu and come up with new dishes, including promos like combo meals," says Jom Policarpio, the restaurant's vice president and operations manager.

Combo platter

Somethin' Fishy has come up with the Seafood Combo Platter promo for diners who want different kinds seafood without burning a hole in their pocket.

The platter, actually an oversized, sturdy, made-to-order colored tray, has enough for four to five persons. With this combo platter, says Policarpio, they give diners their favorite seafoods and value for their money.



ALL-MEAT Combo Platter

Blue Marlin

BOARD chair Joselito Balquiedra Jr. (fourth from left) with Emma Rose Policarpio (second from left), her sister Emma Lyn, brother Jom (far right)and other restaurant officers and staff

A Seafood Platter, priced at P769, has Swordfish Steak, Grilled Salmon Belly, Pinais na Alimasag, Fresh Oysters, inihaw na Pusit, Halabos na Hipon, Ensaladang Talong with Bagoong and Seafood Rice.

Fresh Catch of the Day Platter consists of Crispy Hipon, Fresh Oysters, Grilled Pusit and plapla, Chili Alimasag, Ensaladang Talong, Steamed Okra and Bagoong Rice for P609.

Despite the name, Somethin' Fishy also has something for non-seafood lovers, the All-Meat Platter that includes Chicken-pork Adobo, Inihaw na Liempo, Chicken Satay, Pork Barbecue Ribs, Lechon Kawali, Kangkong in Sambal Sauce, Steamed Okra and Garlic rice, for P499.

Seafood and Meat Platter offers Adobong Pusit, Crispy Crablets, Inihaw na Plapla, Liempo, Pork Barbecue Ribs, Chicken Satay, Steamed Okra, Kangkong in Sambal Sauce and Garlic Rice for P519.

"Every month we check the fast-moving items and, based on that, we came up with the combination platter. We also conducted a survey on what [people] wanted on a platter," says Policarpio.

Most of the seafood come from General Santos City, while fresh oysters are from Aklan

Party place

Somethin' Fishy is also ideal as venue for parties and corporate events. The two-story restaurant was recently renovated to make it easier to transform it into a party place.

The sprawling ground floor, decorated with stuffed sea creatures donated by game-fishing friends, was repainted. Tables and chairs were reupholstered and the color of tables and chairs was changed from brown to white.

The second floor, which used to have fishes hanging from the ceiling giving it the look of a huge aquarium, was made more formal with elegant curtains to accommodate themed parties, including weddings, debuts, baptism and corporate events. It can hold at least 400 guests.

Somethin' Fishy is in Eastwood City, Libis, QC. Call 4212121 and 4216412.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

So 'manyaman' . . .

From page D1

KAPAMPANGAN'S traditional *sisig*

The festival fare Fontana offered included the popular *sisig*, *kinilaw na tanigue* and *kalderetang kambing*.

Guests also savored *kare-kareng baka*, *rellenong bangus*, steamed vegetables with *burong kanin* (fermented rice) and *lechon kawali*.

Other dishes that guests also enjoyed, although not strictly from Pampanga, included *laing*, *sinaing na tulingan* and *pinakbet*.

"This is Fontana's first time to join the Manyaman festival," said Tony Biggs, the resort's general manager. "We intend to join the festival every year to showcase the Kapampangans' culinary greatness."

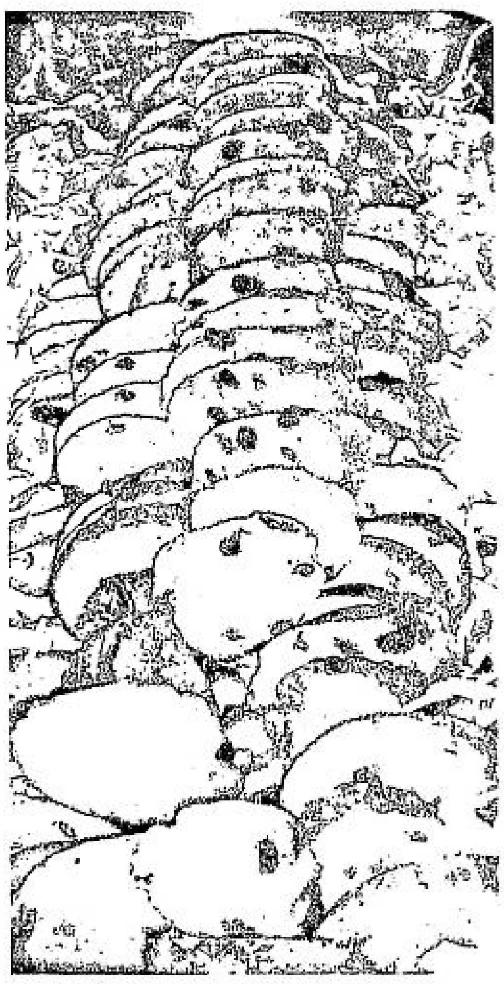
For dessert, the must-try was *palitaw*. We were looking for *sapin-sapin* or *tibok-tibok* (*maja blanca* made of carabao's milk) but there was none so we settled for *ginataang bilo-bilo*.

Fontana's celebration of Manyaman fest coincided with the inauguration of its Sports Bar and Convention Center which can accommodate about 1,000 guests.

Fontana is adding to its 400-plus villas. The new villas will each have a private pool and sauna.

Special guest during the festival was billiards legend Efren "Bata" Reyes, himself a Kapampangan. He played in afternoon exhibition matches with media people at the Piano Lounge area before enjoying the sumptuous Pampango feast.

FONTANA Convention Center is suitable for all kinds of events.



CHICKEN Embotido

For further info please cal

KAPAMPANGAN billiards ace Efren "Bata" Reyes and Tony Biggs, Fontana Leisure Parks general manager

---

A personal . . .

From page D4

the *empanadas*, as well as the chiffon cake. It is fusion, yes, but it's a mix that ends up totally being our own.

Regional tales

And just to complete the picture about how diverse Filipino food is, the next chapter is about regional cooking. It covers only places of friends and families whose stories and recipes are featured—Ilocos, Pampanga, Laguna, Bicol, Cebu, Samar, Iloilo, Bacolod and Silay.

Romy, for instance, comes from Irosin, Sorsogon. For the book, his brother, Eddie, asked *barangay* captains to cook Irosin specialties. During lunch, Romy said it was unfortunate some specialties had disappeared like the *kuping*, thin cassava wafers. But the rest are still there.

Amy wrote about how she finally saw and tasted what Romy used to talk about. One was the *sinapot*, fried "layers of sliced *saba* coated in rice flour batter arranged on a cacao leaf." The other was *linusak* or *nilupak*, boiled taro and sweet potato, peeled then pounded "with grated *buko*, sugar and butter in a wooden mortar."

For the chapter on special-event cooking, the authors chose Christmas. It's when, to this day, we still look forward to food once brought in only by ships from China, Europe and the United States—hams, *queso de bola*, *chorizos*, olives, fruits and chocolate bars.

The last chapter is about Cendrillon restaurant, its history and Romy's take on traditional dishes. I'm glad the black rice paella (made of *pirurutong* rice) I tasted on my second visit is still there.

Romy, however, regrets his rabbit *morcon* didn't make it to the lineup.

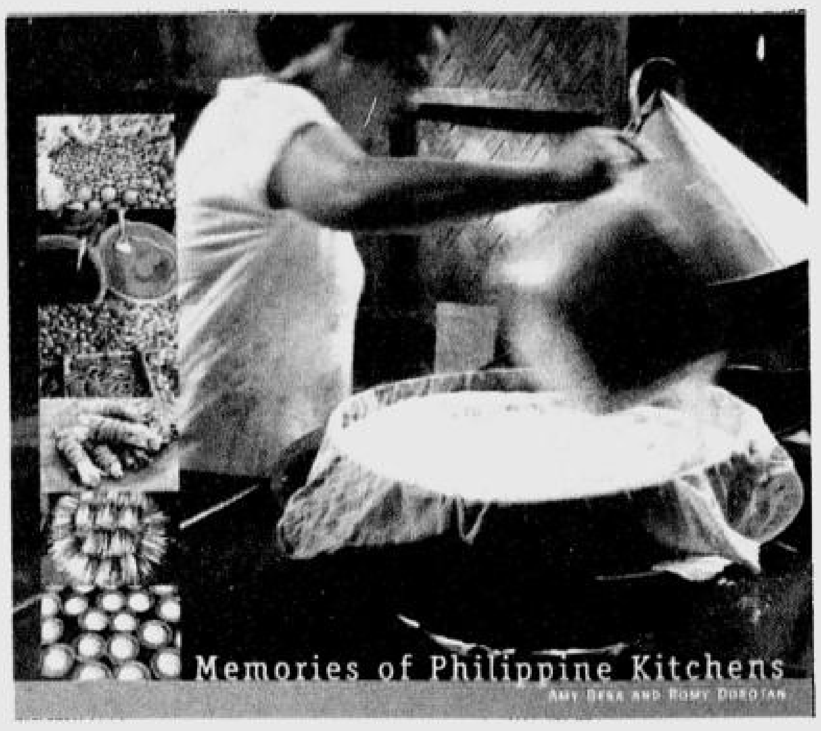
He and Neal had a good laugh about how long it took them to photograph the ice cream flavors but which ended up as a small picture anyway.

Neal's photographs are natural and unadorned by too much styling. Just by looking at the pictures you get a sense right away of what the cooking is all about. More important, he has documented those who still do the cooking the old way, capturing scenes that may no longer be around in a few years.

"Memories of Philippine Kitchens" will be available in November at bookstores. The authors, however, will only be able to go on a promotional tour in January.

E-mail the author at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com

TINOLA, the Visayan *sinigang*



A personal book on Filipino cooking

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Fenix

'Memories of Philippine Kitchens' is another way for the Dorotan couple to show more of the country and its cooking

SOMEONE COOKED *ADOBONG manok sa gata* on Martha Stewart's show, a friend told me. Before I could guess who, another friend called to report it was Romy Dorotan.

Romy isn't known in this country but he has made a name for himself in New York. Cendrillon (45 Mercer St., Soho District), a Filipino and Pan-Asian restaurant owned by Romy and his wife, Amy Besa, has been reviewed and praised highly in publications such as Gourmet, New York Times, New York magazine and Wall Street Journal.

Romy was in town for a brief visit and had just enough time to talk about the book he and his wife authored, which is set to be launched next year. Neal Oshima, who took the photos in the book, set up the interview.

Over lunch of *sisig*, *pancit palabok* and *daing na bangus* at Razon's, I told Romy the place was chosen mainly for the *halo-halo*. Romy said the *halo-halo* worked because it was not too filling.

He recalled his Martha Stewart moment with amusement. They rehearsed the cooking, even the conversation about using chili pepper in the *adobo*. Romy comes from Sorsogon in Bicol so that answers the question why he chose to cook *adobo sa gata*.

Stage fright

When the time came to be on camera, he forgot his lines. So, when Stewart asked if he was using chili in his *adobo*, all he could say was "yes."

Through Cendrillon, Filipino food has sort of made it in New York. And now the book "Memories of Philippine Kitchens" is another way for the couple to show more of the country and its cooking.

Romy briefed me on how the book was organized. Some people, he said, found it confusing because it's not divided into the usual main ingredients or even regions. He emphasized that it's a personal look into Filipino cuisine using family stories of Amy, his own and all those they interviewed. Hence the subhead "Stories and Recipes from Far and Near."

When I finally saw the book, the flow of the chapters made sense. How else can one start a personal book on so diverse a cooking than through one's own childhood memories? And for Amy, as well as for most of us, those memories start with *lola*'s cooking.

Amy's maternal grandmother, Nanay Carmen Oliva Camara, produced such memorable goodies in her Iba, Zambales, kitchen—*bagoong* from *tamban*, *pan de sal*, *suman sa ibos*, *yemas* and mango jam from overripe Zambales mangoes.

In that section, it is Romy's *ube pan de sal* that raised my eyebrow. While finishing his *ube*-free Razon's halo-halo, Romy mentioned he hadn't seen *ube* or *macapuno* used in other Asian recipes.

'Ube'-flavored

In the book, Amy wrote, "Romy can't resist using purple yam flour in all baked things, such as *ube crostini* and pizza crust." Even his fresh *lumpia* has a wrapper made of *ube* flour.

It is this application of nontraditional items to traditional cooking that is a trademark of Cendrillon and which writer Peter Kaminsky described as "fusion but coming from the other direction." Just imagine the *sinigang* of salmon *tocino* I tasted on my first visit there.

The next chapter chooses main dishes that, to the authors, define cooking we've always had sans influences—*adobo*, *sinigang*, *kinilaw*, *kare-kare* and *kakanin*. It also includes the two essential ingredients, vinegar and rice.

Of course, under those general headings, you can list unlimited versions. The chicken *adobo* in the Martha Stewart show is there, the same one served at Cendrillon accompanied with mushroom and bamboo-shoot rice.

Filipino food, however, isn't complete without including dishes with Chinese, Spanish, Mexican and American influences. The chapter zeroes in on *pancit*, *lumpia*, *lechon* and crispy *pata*, *menudo*, *apritada* and

A PERSONAL/ D3

H E N Y S I S O N
CULINARY SCHOOL
SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

November 3(Friday)10:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE COOKING by: Chef Koichi Kondo**, licensed cook from Ehime, Japan and food consultant to various Japanese restaurants 'Learn all-time favorites Japanese dishes applicable to home & professional cooking such as: Sushi, Sashimi, Sukiyaki, Miso Soup, Tempura, Teriyaki, Udon Noodles in Clay Pot, Chicken Teriyaki & Japanese Fried Rice. **P2,500**

November 4(Saturday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom A) **NEW CLASS ! YOGHURT IT YOURSELF! by: Chef Carlo Estagle**, one of our schools home-grown chefs who has proven his mettle as Executive Chef of Mezze Restaurant and Bar at Greenbelt 2, pastry consultant of Bakeshops and chef consultant to other multinational food brands. He is one of the resident chefs of IBC 13s A Taste of Life with Heny Sison.Learn how to make yoghurt, and even use it in different dishes from appetizers, soups, salads, pastas and even desserts. **Recipes include:** Carrot-Potato Yoghurt Soup, Ampalaya Salad with yoghurt and crabsticks, Pasta with Yoghurt Cream sauce, and New York Yoghurt Cheese cake. **P1,500**

November 6(Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom A) **NEW CLASS ! CHRISTMAS BASKET GIVE AWAY PACKAGING by: Glenn Remorca**, floral designer . Learn the many ways to package and wrap your goodies this holiday season based on theme, product and concept. **Demonstration class. P2,500**

November 6(Monday)9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.(classroom B) **NEW CLASS ! HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES by: Chef Vicki Villanueva**, from Stars & Bizu, let Chef Vicki share with you her wealth of knowledge and experience of patisseries and restaurant concepts, skills, techniques & operations. **Recipes:** Pichi-pichi, Putobumbong, Tsocolate Eh!, Bibingka Galapong, Grilled Queso de Bola, Ensaymada, Leche Flan. **P1,950**

November 6(Monday)1:30 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom B) **NEW CLASS ! HOLIDAY BAKING by: Chef Vicki VillanuevaRecipes:** My Moms Best Fruitcake, Chocolate Fruitcake, Mango & Walnut Torte, My Best Butter Cake, Macapuno and Langka Boat Tarts, and Prune Cake. **P2,100**

November 7(Tuesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **BAKED PASTAS by: Chef Aileen Anastacio-Sandoval**, owner of Goodies N Sweet Bakeshop & Cest Si Bon, Deans list graduate of Culinary at the California Culinary Academy**Recipes:** Beef Lasagna, Vegetable Lasagna, Chicken Macaroni, Baked Spaghetti and Baked Seafood Pasta. **P1,800**

November 7(Tuesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) **SIOPAO & MAMI WORKSHOP by: Chef Katherine Sion**, restaurateur (Ding Hao & Fat Kat restaurant), caterer and an expert in Chinese cuisine. 'Chicken Bola-Bola, Asado Pao, Bola-bola Pao, Jumbo Siopao with Chinese Sausage, Chicken Asado Mami & Beef Mami. **P2,500**

November 8(Wednesday)9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.(classroom A) **BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS P1,500 by: Heny Sison** 'Butter Cake with Butter Icing, Moist Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing, Mocha Cake with No-Melt Butter Icing, Lemon Chiffon Cake with Boiled Icing & Sponge Cake with Whipped Cream Icing. **P1,500**

November 8(Wednesday)2:00 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) **CHRISTMAS BARS & COOKIES by: Heny Sison** 'Food for the Gods, Carmelas Bar, Oatmeal Lace Cookies, Macaroon Cups, Revel Bar and Macadamia Cookies. **P1,500**

November 8(Wednesday)9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.(classroom B) **NEW CLASS! TECHNIQUES OF FINE COOKING I (Featuring Chicken)by: Chef Vicki VillanuevaHands-on preparation and cooking of chicken.** Each student shall be assigned whole chicken to butcher and debone. Learn how to grill, roast, stew, fry, saute, steam and make sauces.**Recipes include:** Chicken Gallantina, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Chicken Sate, Classic Roasted Herb Chicken, Chicken Nuggets, Chicken Caesar Salad, Chicken Fricasse and Chicken Teriyaki**Reservation is Requested! P2,750**

November 9(Thursday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **NEW CLASS! WAFFLES & PUFFS: A WORKSHOP by: Chef Jacqueline Ang Po**, Pastry Chef of Fleur de Lys Patisserie, deans list graduate, California Culinary Academy 'Belgian & American Style Waffles and its variations – Blueberry, Chocolate Chip, Apple Cinnamon plus different toppings & sauces for the waffles. **Puffs** – Caramel Cream Puffs, Chocolate Eclairs and Churros' **P2,500**

November 10(Friday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) **JAPANESE COOKING I (All Time Favorite Japanese Recipes) by: Chef Koichi Kondo** 'Miso Soup, Tempura, Nimono, Yakimono, California Maki, Chilled Soba, Noodles with Nori, Skewered Dumplings with Brown Sauce. **P1,700**

November 11(Saturday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **NEW CLAS ! NOCHE BUENA TREATS WORKSHOP by: Chef Sam de Leoz**, Food Consultant, Stylist, Photographer, Caterer, Food demonstrator and Culinary Competiton Events Consultant specializing in Basic & Classical Cookery; International & Asian Cuisine' Why prepare the same Noche Buena dishes every year when you can prepare the old classics with a twist! The Noche Buena hands on workshop will provide an alternative respite to homemakers whipping up menus for the family in the coming holiday season. **Recipes:** Cochinillo w/ Roasted Liver Sauce, Dalandan-Brined Roast Turkey Pinoy-style w/ Basi Wine Liver and Giblet Gravy, Morcon w/ Sauce Choron and Chinese-style Stuffed Pork Trotters w/ Chestnut Filling in Shitake Apricot Glace; **SALAD:** Pomelo Salad; **RICE:** Thai Shrimp Paste Paella; **DESSERT:** Jackfruit Panna Cotta w/ Kopi Jelly & Ube Coulis garnished w/ Cheese Crisps. **P4,000**

November 13-14(Monday-Tuesday)9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A)**CAKE DECORATING COURSE I by: Heny Sison** 'Learn the basics of cake decorating: icing, color, star, shell, dots, outline and scallop borders; the rose, figure piping: clowns & booties. Each student will bake & decorate a character birthday cake. **Full participation. P4,000**

November 13(Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) **POPULAR CHINESE DISHES FOR CATERING I by: Chef Katherine Sion** 'Sweet Corn Soup, Fried Crispy Chicken, Pata Tim, Saute Shrimp with Green Peas, Peking Noodles with Chopsuey, Fried Rice with Assorted Meats and Buchi. **P1,900**

November 14(Tuesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B)**NEW CLASS ! COOKING FOR THE HOLIDAYS by: Chef Vivian Syyap**, Private Chef/Caterer. Associates in Occupational Studies, Culinary Arts, with honors. The Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, New York.' Chicken Liver Pate Tartlets with Figs & Mushroom Ragout, Classic Prawn Thermidore, Christmas Ham with Cinnamon Spice Glaze, White Truffle Whipped Potaotes, Green Beans with Bacon and Banana-Rum Raisin with Sabayon Sauce. **P2,500**

November 15(Wednesday)9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) **SECRETS NO MORE! by: Heny Sison** 'Decadent Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing & Caramel Sauce, Lemon Torte, Ensaymada, Almond Sanzrival, Strawberry Shortcake & Ube Cake. **P3,000**

November 15(Wednesday)9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.(classroom A) **NEW CLASS! GUILT-FREE SWEET TEMPTATIONS by: Chef Juan Carlo Estagle** Let Carlo show the tricks of giving in to those tempting sweets yet avoiding the fat and the carbs. **Recipes** include various kinds of Fat-free Yoghurt Cheesecake with Fat-free crust, Fat-free Vodka Cake, Apple-Banana Bread Pudding, and Fat-free Carrot Cake. He will also show you how to whip up a totally fat-free, sugar free whipping topping from scratch. **P1,500**

November 15(Wednesday)1:30 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) **NEW CLASS ! LETS BOTTLE UP ! by: Chef Juan Carlo Estagle** Putting up food for future enjoyment is a decidedly old-fashioned pursuit. Yet more and more cooks today are rediscovering it and even making a business out of it. In this course, youll learn everything you need to know to bottle and preserve food efficiently, safely, beautifully; and of course; with delicious results. The outcome is sure to be a rainbow of jars filled with Dalandan Marmalade, Ginger Marmalade, Bacalao Filipino, Tawilis Sardines, Tuyo Pasta Salsa, Tomato Pasta Salsa, and even pickled onions and quail eggs. **P1,500**

November 16(Thursday)9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (classroom A) **JAPANESE RICE TOPPING by: Chef Koichi Kondo Recipes:** Oyako-don (Chicken & Egg on Rice), Gyudon (Beef Bowl), Tendon (Tempura Bowl), Katsu-don (Pork Cutlet Bowl), Soboro-don (Minced Chicken & Egg Bowl), Tori Teriyaki-don (Chicken Teriyaki). **P1,700**

November 16(Thursday)1:30 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A)**SUSHI CLASS by: Chef Koichi Kondo**'Temaki-Zushi (Do-It Yourself Sushi Rolls), Bara-Zushi (Scattered Sushi), Inari-Zushi (Sushi Pockets), Futo-Maki Zushi (Thick-Rolled Sushi), Teka-Maki (Hand-rolled Tuna Sushi), Kappa-Maki (Sea Cucumber Sushi) and California Maki. **P1,700**

November 17(Friday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **CHINESE SEAFOOD SPECIAL II by: Chef Katherine Sion**'Shrimps Hot Salad, Crispy Noodles w/ Assorted Sea Foods, Fried Stuffed Squid w/ Soy Butter Sauce, Fried Lapu-Lapu w/ Sweet and Sour Sauce, Crabs w/ Chili Sauce, Fish Head Soup and Pineapple Rice w/ Crabmeat. **P2,000**

November 18(Saturday)9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon(classroom A) **HEALTHY GOURMET - SOUTH BEACH DIET PHASE 1 by: Jacqueline H. Alleje**, owner of Rizal Dairy Farm, Swiss-Pinoy restaurateur (Vieux Chalet Swiss restaurant), organic caterer and food consultant (Petras naturally green, global, gourmet) 'This class is suitable for all people who want to be able to cook healthy dishes, lose weight considerably and people with health concerns such as diabetes, high blood pressure and other dietary restrictions. The class will guide you through the principles of healthy nutrition, South Beach Diet phase 1 "Swiss Pinoy Style", which uses locally available ingredients. **Complete menu plan and recipes for 14 days of Phase 1. P1,500plus P700 recipe booklet for Phase 1**

November 18(Saturday)1:00 – 4:00 p.m (classroom A)**HEALTHY GOURMET – SOUTH BEACH DIET COMBO CLASS PHASE 2 and 3 by: Jacqueline H. Alleje** 'This class is suitable for all people who want to learn how to cook healthy dishes, deepen their knowledge of nutrition and weight control, as well as people with health concerns, such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and other dietary restrictions. This class teaches wholesome recipes which reintroduce carbohydrates with complete recipe booklets for phase 2 and 3 of the South Beach Diet. **P1,500plus P700 per recipe booklet**

November 20(Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **NEW CLASS ! CHINESE DELI by: Nestor Magrimbao**, Baker, Fema Corporation**Recipes:** Dice Hopia, Tikoy, Siopao Mongo, Buchi & Moon Cake **Bonus Recipe:** Hopia. **P1,500**

November 20(Monday)9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.(classroom B) **ALL ABOUT FRENCH MACAROONS by: Chef Vicki Villanueva** 'Learn step-by-step preparation. A most sought after give away for Christmas and Weddings. **Flavors include:** Hazelnut, Chocolate with Ganache, Caramel, Lemon with Curd, Strawberry, Coffee and Ube with Halaya. **Reservation is a must! P1,850**

November 20(Monday)1:30 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom B) **NEW CLASS ! CHRISTMAS GIVE AWAY I (Features delicious and easy to make Bars and Cookies)by: Chef Vicki Villanueva** You are sure to enjoy baking them. **Recipes include:** The Best Chocolate Cookie, Black Forest Bars, Choconut Crumble Bars, No Bake Brownie, Flourless Brownie and Brownie Christmas Pudding. **Reservation is a must! P1,950**

November 21(Tuesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **SPECIAL TABLE AND HOME DECOR FLOWER ARRANGEMENT by: Glenn Remorca** Table Centerpieces w/ actual demonstration and table setting presentation.**Lecture, demonstration and hands-on production. Bring a pair of scissors. P3,000**

November 21(Tuesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) **DIFFERENT CHOCOLATE CAKES by: Chef Jacqueline Ang Po** 'Chocolate Fudge Cake, Flourless Chocolate Walnut Cake, Sachertorte, German Chocolate Cake and Warm Chocolate Souffle Cake. **P1,500**

November 22(Wednesday)9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) **PARADE OF PIES, TARTS & CHEESECAKES by: Heny Sison** 'French Apple Pie with Streusel Topping and Crème Anglaise Sauce, Turtle Pie, Banana Cream Pie with Whipped Cream and Caramel Topping, Mango Tart, Peach Walnut Pie, Blueberry Cheesecake and White Chocolate Cheesecake. **P1,700**

November 22(Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B)**NEW CLASS ! SWEET BUR SUGAR FREE CAKES II by: Chef Jacqueline Ang-Po** Another round of great cakes and pastries minus the sugar. 'Cappuccino Tiramisu, Oatmeal Chip Cookie, Almond Sansrival, Vanilla Pannacotta, Chocolate Mousse Cake, Fudge Macadamia Brownies. **P1,500**

November 25(Saturday)9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon(classroom A) **NEW CLASS ! MUFFIN WORKSHOP by: Jacqueline H. Alleje** 'Muffins can be considered the healthier alternatives to doughnuts and cinnamon buns. They are good to eat, and can be made with a wide array of nutritious and delicious ingredients. Learn the perfect steps to perfect muffins and choose from 10 mouthwatering recipes: Banana Yogurt Muffin, Chocolate-Ricotta Muffin, Spicy Raisin Muffin, Cocoa-Nut-Oatmeal Muffin, Sweet Potato-Walnut Muffin, Parmesan-Tomato Muffin, Chocolate-Cinnamon Muffin, and Low Fat Muffins: Herbed Brown Rice, Carrot-Orange and Raisin Bran Muffin. Students may assist in the preparation of the muffins. **P1,500**

November 25(Saturday)1:00 – 4:00 p.m (classroom A)**NEW CLASS ! FESTIVE HOLIDAY COOKIES FOR THE FAMILY AND GIVE-AWAYS by: Jacqueline H. Alleje** 'Learn how to make cookies for the Holidays, healthy children snacks and give-aways. Ginger Snap Oats, Lemony Butter Cookies, Lebkuchen, Pumpkin spiced Cookies, Mascobado Spice Cookies, Vanilla Butter Crescent, Almond Cookies, Fruitcake Cookies, Santas Chocolate Cookies and Santas Thumbprints. Students may assist in the preparation of the cookies. **P1,500**

November 25(Saturday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom B) **NEW CLASS ! HOLIDAY AFTERMATH RECYCLING by: Chef Sam de Leoz.** Now you dont need to dispose of your Noche Buena Treats nor feed them to the dogs. Recycle and resurrect like Lazarus their preparation to simple, easy and appetizing fares. **Recipes:** Walnuts and Chestnut Salad, Smoked Salmon Pate w/ leftover Crab Alige, Chinese Ham in Creamy Tomato Nacho Soup, Turkey Fajitas w/ Guacamole and Salsa Dips, Crispy Turkey Adobo Flakes w/ Adobo Glaze and Cilantro Vinaigrette and Pinatisan Lechon. **P2,500**

November 27(Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **DIMSUM II by: Chef Katherine Sion** 'Steamed Pork Spareribs in Tausi Sauce, Chicken Siomai, Sharksfin Siomai, Two Colors Siomai, Wanton Mami and Egg Tart. **P1,700**

November 27(Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m (classroom B) **NEW CLASS ! HOLIDAY COOKING (Featuring Balikbayan Feast I) by: Chef Vicki Villanueva Recipes:** My Best Cochinillo w/ Liver, Aioli and oriental sauce, Guinomis, Lengua w/ Mushroom, Quesong Puti and Tomato Salad, Bopis, Palitao, Callos, Aroz ala Valenciana. **P3,400**

November 28(Tuesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) **NEW CLASS ! BOTTLED PASTA SAUCES by: Chef Vivian Syyap** 'Spicy Amatriciana (Bacon & Onion), Vonggole con Tomate (Clams in tomato sauce), Creamy Mushroom Pommodoro (Mixed Mushrooms in Tomato Sauce), Tuna con Tomate (Tuna & Capers in Tomato Sauce) and Basil-Walnut Pesto. **P1,850**

November 28-29(Tuesday & Wednesday)9:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A)**CAKE DECORATING COURSE II by: Heny Sison** 'Add amazing new skills to your cake decorating – the world of icing flowers, distinctive borders, flower spray & specialty flowers. As a final project you will decorate a basketweave cake filled with cascading flower **Full participation. P4,000**

November 29(Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B)**NEW CLASS ! COFFEE SHOP SANDWICHES by: Chef Vivian Syyap** 'Reuben Sandwich, Pastrami on Rye, Meatball Submarine, Chicken Parmaggiana on Sour Dough Rolls, Crab cake Burger with Honey-Dill Mayo & Capsicum Ketchup and Grilled Mediterranean Vegetables with Hummus on Pita **P1,500**

December 4-8(Monday – Saturday)9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.(classroom A) **GUMPASTE FLOWER MAKING by: Heny Sison** 'A unique method of making gum paste using a foam pad, a pair of scissors and cutters. The course covers: the Rose, Carnation, Stephanotis, Tulips, Filler Flowers, Cattleya, Christmas Holy, Poinsettia, Daisy, Tiger Lily and Quick Leaves. Learn how to use airbrush and edible petal dust to color the flowers and bunch them into a bouquet. **Full participation. P5,000**

December 4-8 (Monday - Saturday) 1:00 to 4:00 pm (classroom A) **ADVANCED CAKE DECORATION By: Heny Sison** ' This course covers: baking of fruitcake, covering it with marzapan then with rolled fondant. Learn South African and Australian methods using delicate icing wings, curtainings, ribbon insertion done on rolled fondant, quilting & cut-outs. **Prerequisite: MASTER IN CAKE DECORATION. Full participation. P10,000**

December 11-15 (Monday - Saturday) 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (Classroom A) **LAMBETH CONTINENTAL COURSE (The Ultimate in Cake Decorating) by Heny Sison.** ' The course covers: the intricate overpiping boarders on royal icing and fondant covered cakes. Students decorate cake using combination of overpiped boarders and tiniy flowers. Master Course and Advanced Cake Decoration Course are prerequisite to this course. 'Maximum of only 5 students will be accepted for this special class. **Full Participation. P10,000**

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PEOPLE CATEGORY: *LEAH BAGAPORO*

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Third contestant bows out of 'Philippine Idol'

Mr. C 'shocked' with voters' verdict

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE EVICTION OF REYmond Sajor from "Philippine Idol" this week has greatly frustrated Ryan Cayabyab, composer and one of the judges on ABC 5's singing talent search program.

REYMOND Sajor: I will not stop singing.
RUDY ESPERAS

"What an outrage! How frustrating, but totally unsurprisingly Pinoy," Cayabyab, or Mr. C to his colleagues, told INQUIRER Entertainment on Monday, after Sajor became the third contender to be voted out of the competition.

On Sunday night, a disgruntled Mr. C said: "First of all, I'm shocked. Although right from the start we knew that what we say here has no influence on the voters. I can imagine next week, *titira na ako talaga* (I would be a hard-hitting judge). If the voters keep on voting out the best ones, *ano matitira? Kantahan na lang ng* nursery rhymes."

The following day, Mr. C called his comment "an emotional outburst."

"Seriously, making *tira* won't even have any effect. Maybe I will just play it cool, maybe just pillory the good ones and praise the bad ones for a change," he pointed out. "On the other hand, that might have no effect, too. Maybe I should just crack jokes?"

Former "Idol" contenders Drae Ybañez and Stef Lazaro last week said they were certain their inability to "connect with the audience" caused them their slots in the finals.

Sajor said he felt the same: "It's probably because I didn't get enough votes. My family did the best they could in campaigning for me. I, on the other hand, did my part in studying my songs and delivering them well. In the end, it's really up to the viewers to decide who will stay or go. That's beyond my control."

Meanwhile, "Idol" judge Francis Magalona is on a five-week vacation leave. Singer-producer Hajji Alejandro pinch-hit for the rapper-TV host this weekend.

Different "guest judges" will replace Magalona each week, depending on the show's theme.

Last weekend's theme focused on the interpretation of winning songs from the Metropop Song Festival.

Did you expect to be eliminated this week even if you got good remarks from the judges?

No. That night, I still hoped that something good would come out of the fact that I was called as part of the Bottom 3 (Reymond, Mau Marcelo and Gian Magdangal). Just like when I had trouble with my microphone on the first night of the live competition. The people liked how I responded to the crisis and voted for me.

What's in store for you after "Idol"?

I will not stop singing. I'm going to look for a manager or an agency that will handle my career.

Now that I'm out of "Idol," I can now focus on looking for gigs. Contestants aren't allowed to accept gigs or do shows apart from those that are connected with the show.

Was there any remark from the judges that you felt was unfair?

I've worked with them for almost two months. I don't think there was an instance when I felt their comment was unfair.

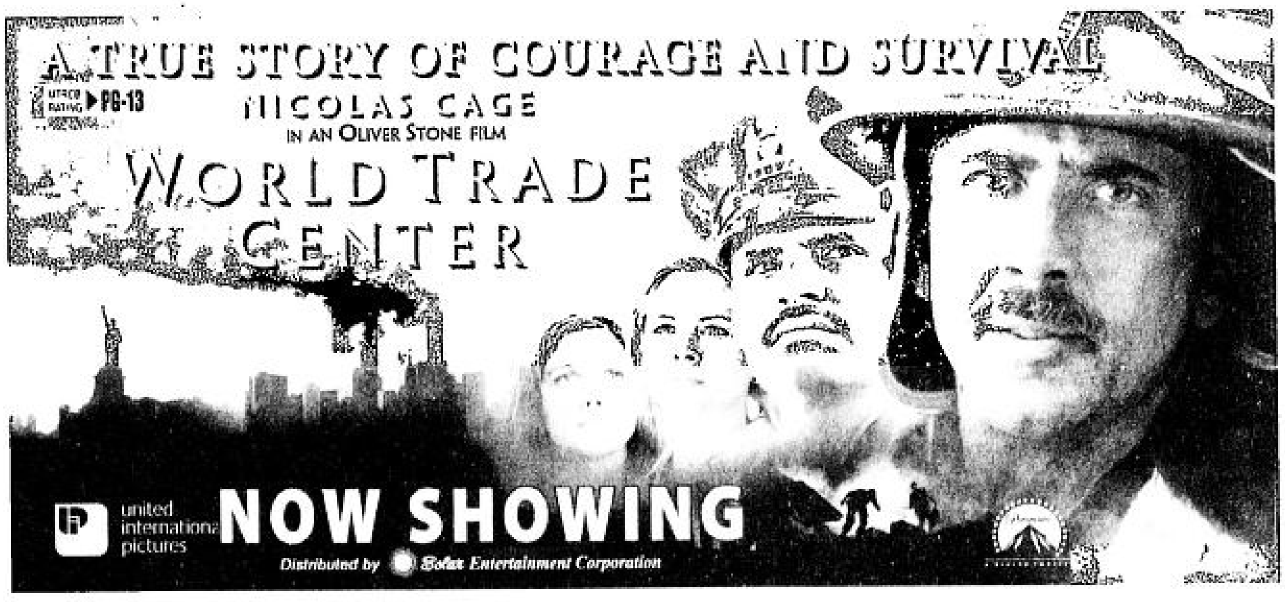
What aspect in your being an artist did you think you improved on after joining the competition?

We meet with our vocal coach for 30 minutes every Tuesday, practice on the piano every Wednesday and have our band rehearsal every Friday. Because of the show, I now know how to put color in each song I sing or make it my own. I also learned how to effectively interpret the songs by experimenting on adding more notes.

What did you have to give up just to join "Idol?"

Having a stable income. Since we weren't allowed to work outside of "Idol," I don't earn at

THIRD/ E3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WORLD TRADE CENTER PG13 2:20,4:55,10:05	BARNYARD G 12:00,2:00,4:00,6:00 THE DEPARTED R13 7:40,10:30	THE GUARDIAN PG13 1:40,4:30,7:20,10:10
THE BANQUET PG13 1:50,4:30,7:10,9:50	EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 1:00,3:15,5:30,7:45,10:00	WORLD TRADE CENTER PG13 2:20,2:55,5:30,8:05,10:30

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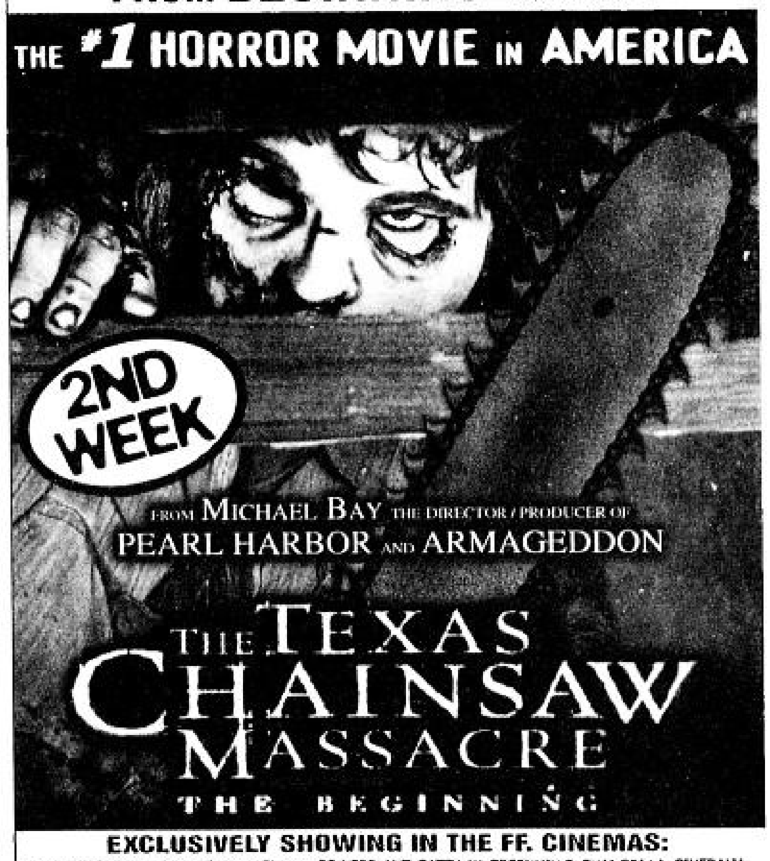
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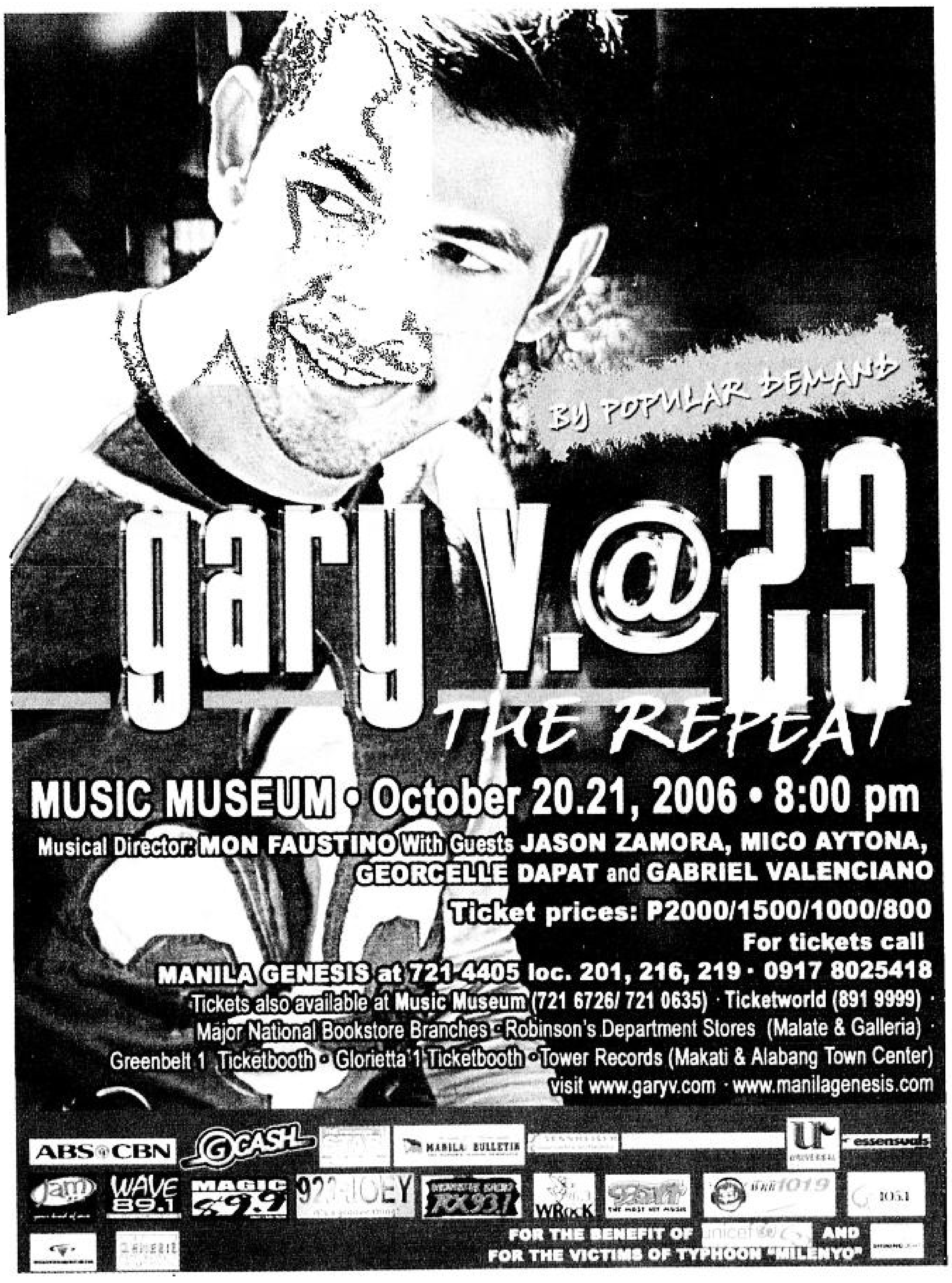
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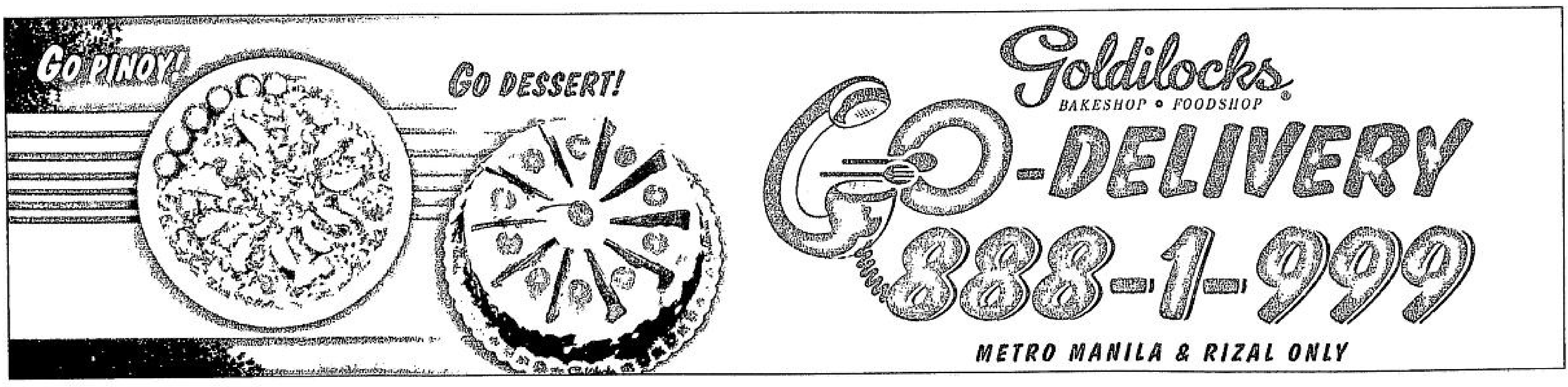
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MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

1 (DOLBY) WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 (DOLBY) THE BANQUET
3 (DOLBY) EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
4 (DOLBY) THE GUARDIAN

PREMIERE
BARNYARD
THE DEPARTED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 THE GUARDIAN / BANYARD
2 TXT
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER

starmall
EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

3 TILL I MET YOU
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER
5 TXT

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504286, 5433594

1 BARANG
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE BANQUET
4 TXT

THEATRES

1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE BREED

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271

1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 THE DEPARTED
5 WORLD TRADE CENTER
6 THE GUADIAN
7 THE BANQUET
8 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
9 BARANG
10 TXT

Blue Wave
MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY) TXT
2 (DOLBY) EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
3 (DOLBY) WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 (DOLBY) TILL I MET YOU

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 BANQUET
2 WORLD TRADE CENTER
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 TXT
5 BARANG

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT
3 THE DEPARTED
4 TWILIGHT DANCERS

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 BARANG

Center Mall Cinema
Bagulo Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449348)

1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 TILL I MET YOU

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT
4 BARANG

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72

1 THE BANQUET
2 WORLD TRADE CENTER BARNYARD
3 THE GUARDIAN / BANYARD
4 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH DEPARTED

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE DEPARTED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Binan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 TILL I MET YOU
2 THE DEPARTED
3 THE BREED
4 TXT

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT
3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 THE BREED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plandel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 THE DEPARTED
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 POSSESSED BY EVIL
2 THE DEPARTED

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 BARANG
2 BABASAGING KRISTAL
3 MAPAG BIGAY
4 PULSE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 TILL I MET YOU
2 PERLAS
3 THE DEPARTED
4 POSSESSED BY EVIL
5 TXT

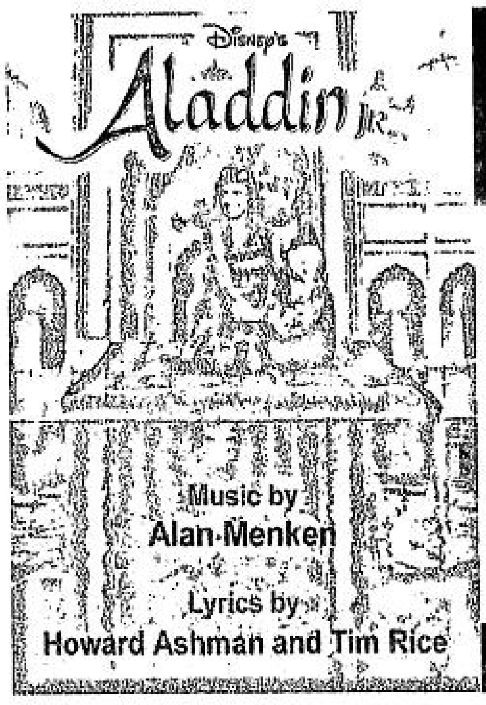
Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 FLY BOYS
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 TXT

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 BARANG
2 DEAD OR ALIVE

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE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Music by
Alan Menken
Lyrics by
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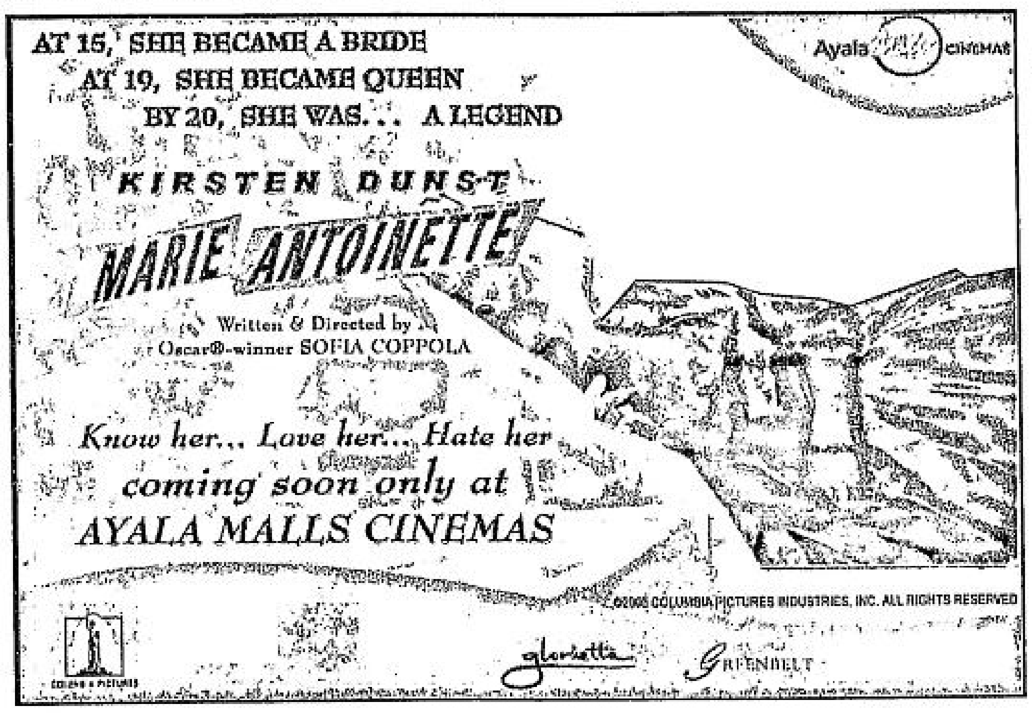
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TXT
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

PULSE
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MY FIRST WEDDING
:40 / 3:40 / 5:40 / 7:40 / 9:40

THE BANQUET
1:55 / 4:30 / 7:05 / 9:40

TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
12:50 / 3:05 / 5:20 / 7:35 / 9:50

THE DEPARTED
12:10 / 3:20 / 6:30 / 9:40
BARNYARD
12:20 / 2:30 / 6:50

WORLD TRADE CENTER
2:05 / 4:35 / 7:05 / 9:50

TILL I MET YOU
12:40 / 2:55 / 5:10 / 7:25 / 9:40

THE GUARDIAN
1:20 / 4:10 / 7:00 / 9:50

PLATINUM CINEMA
WORLD TRADE CENTER
1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

ALIMALL 5

1 TXT
4 BARANG
12:20 / 2:20 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 8:20

2 TILL I MET YOU
12:10 / 03 / 1:45 / 4:00 / 6:15 / 8:30

5 THE BANQUET
12:35 / 3:00 / 5:35 / 8:10

3 WORLD TRADE CENTER
12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00

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For more information, call 911-5555 or log on to ticketnet.com.ph & aranetacenter.net

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MTRCB PG-13
1.40, 4.30, 7.15, 10.00

② THE BANQUET
MTRCB PG-13
1.15, 3.55, 6.35, 9:30

③ EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
(SUBJECT FOR MTRCB RATING)
12.20, 2.45, 5.10, 7:35, 10.00

④ THE GUARDIAN
MTRCB PG-13
1.00, 4.00, 7.00, 10.00

PREMIERE THEATRE
BARNYARD / THE DEPARTED
MTRCB GP 1.05, 3.15 / MTRCB R-13 6.50, 10.00

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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CINEMA 1 THE GUARDIAN
11:20, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
PG13

CINEMA 2 BARNYARD
11:20, 1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:55, 10:10
GP

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE
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NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 THE BANQUET
11:50, 2:35, 5:15, 7:55, 10:10
PG-13

CINEMA 4 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:35
PG-13

CINEMA 5 WORLD TRADE CENTER
10:40, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
PG-13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

OCT. 20 & 21, 2006	GARY V. @ 23 "THE REPEAT"	8:30 PM
OCT. 26, 2006	BOBBY SOUL	8:00 PM

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EVERY WEDNESDAY	CERRUDO CLASSICO	8:00PM
OCT. 19, 26, 2006	ISAY ALVAREZ & ROBERT SENA	8:30 PM
OCT. 21, 2006	AYEN LAUREL & RAYMUND LAUCHENGCO	8:00 PM
	FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC 118	

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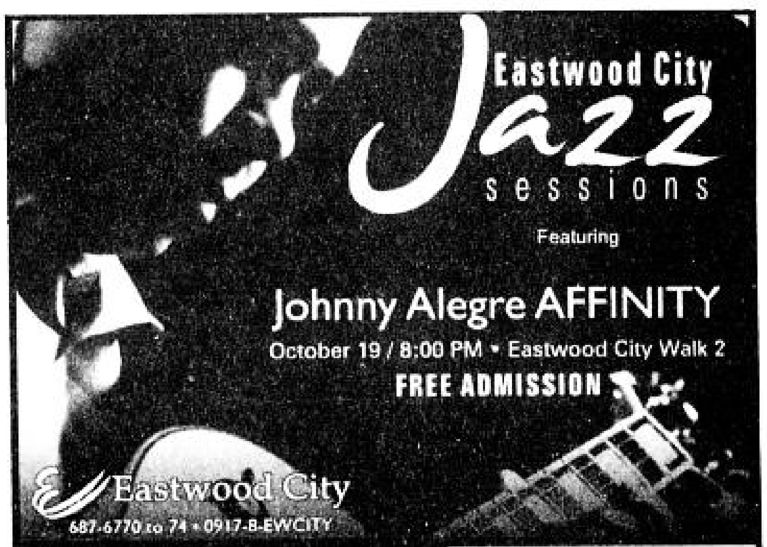
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GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 THE BANQUET
PG-13

2 WORLD TRADE CENTER
12:10, 2:55, 5:40, 8:25, 11:00
PG-13

3 BARNYARD
2:00, 4:10, 6:25
G
THE GUARDIAN
8:20, 11:10
PG-13

4 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00
PG-13

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WEDDING ADVISORY: A MUST-SEE MOVIE FOR THOSE WHO ARE PLANNING TO GET MARRIED SOON.

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RACHAEL LEIGH COOK
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KENNY DOUGHTY
(star of "The Great Raid")
NOW SHOWING
my first wedding

LAUGH TILL YOU DROP!

Clean up your act . . .

From page E4

13th season of their Monday-to-Friday show "Daisy Siyete (Moshi Moshi Chikiyaki)."

"When we were with 'Eat Bulaga,' the girls were known as a group. Now *mas nakakapag*-shine *sila* individually," says their manager **Joy Cancio.**

It's a boy!

Let me share with you my "Sis" **Maegan Aguilar-Eicholz's** e-mail:

Hi Dolly. I'm due end of October *na*. I got married last July 1. My husband Shawn left for Texas July 9 for work. We planned everything in 10 days *lang*. That's why civil rites *muna. Sa bahay kami ni Tatay* (Freddie Aguilar) *kinasal* but we'll be having a grand wedding soon. Shawn will be back December *na*, when our son is two months old. Then we'll plan the *binyag, at siyempre ninang ka 'no*, hello?

If you want, you can write about it in your column. *Kasi baka isipin ng madla inabandon na ko ng* partner *ko di ba?*

I'm planning to do an exhibit of my hand-painted shoes and bags by November.

Maegan

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com

Third contestant bows . . .

From page E1

all. I'm now using the money I saved while I was in Canada. While studying as an intern in a hotel, I juggled three jobs at the same time. I worked as a banquet server, dietary aide and sales associate. I used to be part of the theater group Trumpets before flying to Canada. I was a cast member of its musical "The Little Mermaid," the promotional tour of "Narnia" and their Playshop promo every summer. I missed doing all these things.

Who were you closest to among the Top 10?

I enjoyed the company of all nine contestants, but I guess I'm closest to Mau and Arms (Cruz) because we stayed in the same hotel. Mau is a *kababayan*. We've known each other since we passed the fast-track auditions in Lucena City.

Do you share Mr. C's frustration?

To be perfectly honest, I do. I know that winning this contest isn't based on how well a singer did during a certain week, but on how effectively he or she has charmed the audience. But it's not too late. It's important that the audience become intelligent voters. They should realize that they should vote for someone not because that person is a friend, but because he or she really deserves to win the title.

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

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Cinema	Times	Cinema	Times
1 THE DEPARTED • THX	12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00	6 TXT	12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
2 WORLD TRADE CENTER	11:30 2:10 4:50 7:30 10:10	7 TILL I MET YOU	12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
3 THE GUARDIAN	1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00	8 BARNYARD	1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50
4 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE	1:00 3:00 5:00	9 MY FIRST WEDDING	1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00
5 THE BANQUET	12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	10 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH	12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 THE BANQUET
3 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
4 TXT
5 THE GUARDIAN
6 TILL I MET YOU
7 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
BARNYARD

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 THE BANQUET
3 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
4 THE GUARDIAN
5 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
6 TILL I MET YOU
7 BARNYARD
8 TXT

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 TILL' I MET YOU
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 THE BANQUET
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER
5 TXT

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2576

1 TILL' I MET YOU
2 THE BREED
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

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1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 THE BANQUET
3 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
4 TILL I MET YOU

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1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE DEPARTED
4 POSSESSED BY EVIL

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1 TXT
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

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1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 PULSE

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 TXT
2 PULSE
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 DEAD OR ALIVE

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1 TXT
2 WORLD TRADE CENTER
3 THE BANQUET
4 TILL I MET YOU

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 TXT
2 FLY BOYS
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 THE GUARDIAN
5 THE BREED
6 PULSE

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 TXT
2 STEP UP
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 THE BREED
5 THE DEPARTED
6 FLY BOYS

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 DEAD OR ALIVE
4 THE DEPARTED

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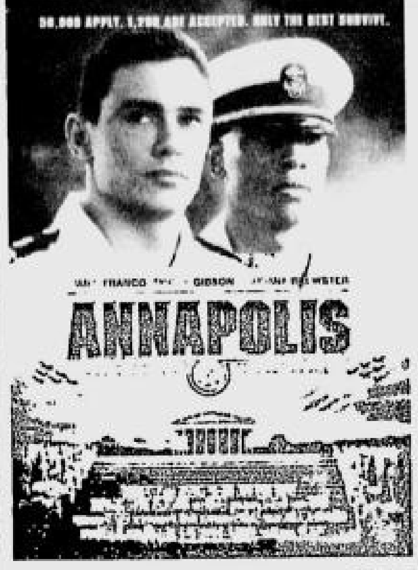

Jake Huard (James Franco) gets a chance to study at the prestigious Naval Academy at Annapolis and just do everything to keep himself inside, as institution boasts of a 137-year old history of focused discipline and determined excellence.

Watch how Jake make eveything he hoped for come true--the chance to make his father and his mentor Lieutenant Burton proud, to stand up for his fellow plebes, and most of all, to create a different future for himself in the Navy.

Starring
James Franco • Tyrese Gibson

Directed by
Justin Lin

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1 THE BANQUET
2 MY FIRST WEDING
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
5 BARANG
6 TILL I MET YOU
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WORLD TRADE CENTER
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
WORLD TRADE CENTER
CENTERSTAGE
TXT
CINEMA 1
THE GUARDIAN
CINEMA 2
WORLD TRADE CENTER
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 THE BANQUET
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE DEPARTED
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER
5 BARNYARD
6 WORLD TRADE CENTER
7 THE GUARDIAN
8 TXT
9 PULSE
10 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
11 BARANG
12 TILL I MET YOU

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2 THE GUARDIAN
3 PHILIPPINE IDOL
4 JOSEPH THE DREAMER
5 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
6 WORLD TRADE CENTER
7 ANNAPOLIS
8 BARANG
9 THE DEPARTED
10 TILL I MET YOU
11 TXT
12 THE BANQUET

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 PULSE
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER
5 BARANG
6 THE BANQUET
7 THE GUARDIAN
8 TILL I MET YOU
9 TXT
10 THE DEPARTED
11 MY FIRST WEDDING
12 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 THE BANQUET
3 TXT
4 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
5 TILL I MET YOU
6 MY FIRST WEDDING
7 THE GUARDIAN
8 BARANG
9 THE DEPARTED
10 PULSE

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 THE BANQUET
4 BARANG
5 TXT
6 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 THE BANQUET
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 TXT
5 BARANG
6 BARNYARD
7 THE GUARDIAN
8 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
9 PULSE

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT
4 THE BANQUET

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 THE BANQUET
2 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
3 PULSE
4 MY FIRST WEDDING
5 THE GUARDIAN
6 WORLD TRADE CENTER
7 BARANG
8 FIRST DAY HIGH
TILL I MET YOU
THE DEPARTED
DEAD OR ALIVE
TXT

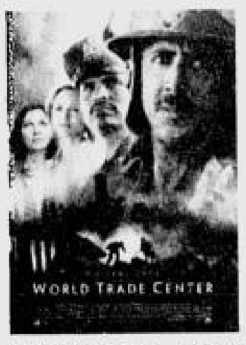
SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
PULSE
TXT
BARANG
TILL I MET YOU

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
WORLD TRADE CENTER
TILL I MET YOU
TXT
BARANG

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
WORLD TRADL CENTER
TXT
TILL I MET YOU
BARANG

movietime

Fresh New Movie



WORLD TRADE CENTER

NOW SHOWING

SM CINEMA

A RELEASE THROUGH

MTRCB Rating: PG-13

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 PULSE
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 BARANG
5 TXT
6 TILL I MET YOU
7 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
8 THE BANQUET

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 PULSE
3 TXT
4 BARANG
5 DEAD OR ALIVE
6 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 THE DEPARTED
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT
4 BARANG

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TXT
3 BARANG
4 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637661-65
1 TXT
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 PULSE
4 FLY BOYS
5 BARANG
6 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY LIPA
1 FLY BOYS
2 TXT
3 BARANG
4 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 DEAD OR ALIVE
4 BARANG

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197830-39
1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 BARANG

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT
4 BARANG

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 BARANG
3 THE DEPARTED
4 TXT

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 THE DEPARTED
2 WORLD TRADE CENTER
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 STEP UP
5 BARANG
6 TILL I MET YOU
7 TXT
8 THE BREED

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 RESERVED
3 THE BREED
4 TXT
5 THE DEPARTED
6 BARANG
7 RESERVED
8 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 SCOOP
2 BARANG
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 TXT
5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
6 PULSE

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 BARANG
4 TALLADEGA NIGHTS

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SHOWTIME

Event Calendar

Lipton Yellow Label Tea presents **WATCH FOR FREE!**

2006 The Power of Music
TEA CAN DO THAT!
MYMP

NOVEMBER 4, 2006
SM NORTH EDSA CINEMA 7 • 9:00PM

Buy Lipton Tea Boxes

P690 Premiere Tickets

P420 Deluxe Tickets

VISIT YOUR NEAREST POPPERS SNACKBARS AT THE SM CINEMAS:

•SM MEGAMALL	infront of Cinema 1	(0922-8191473)
•SM NORTH EDSA	infront of Cinema 7	(0922-8191475)
•SM MANILA	infront of Cinema 6	(0922-8191476)
•SM CENTERPOINT	infront of Cinema 3	(0922-8191440)
•SM MALL OF ASIA	infront of Cinema 4	(0922-8191468)

*For further details: please call 0922-7569014, 0920-9276293 or 714-3367

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

FROM PRODUCERS WES CRAVEN, MATT DAMON & BEN AFFLECK

ALIENS OR PREDATORS?
IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE
FEAST
THEY'RE HUNGRY
YOU'RE DINNER
COMING SOON

Clean up your act, Willie

• COULD IT BE TRUE THAT A salon attendant is planning to press charges against **Willie Revillame** for alleged acts of lasciviousness? And what about the story circulating that he supposedly got his housemaid pregnant? Show biz watchers remain pregnant with speculations. It's high time Willie clears everything up. If he doesn't clean up this mess, who else will?

• Guess who this actress/host is! The delivery man of a high-end resto dreads being sent to her condo unit to bring the food she orders. He waits for hours before the actress signs the delivery slip and pays because she's usually locked up with her model/BF in the bedroom or bathroom. Her maid tells the delivery man every gory detail. Little does the actress know that in exchange for the food delivery, juicy news about her is delivered by her maid!

• Could it be true that Direk **Al Quinn** has not been paid for the services he rendered at the Aliw Awards? A true professional like him does not complain. But as somebody close to Direk puts it "*Di na nakakaaliw ang ginagawa ng* Aliw!"

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

Love rigodon

ABS-CBN's "Lovespell" features a double treat when it switches **Angelica Panganiban** and **Maja Salvador's** lives and creates two complicated love triangles starting Oct. 22 on "Home Switch Home." It also stars **John Wayne Sace, Jason Abalos, Frank Garcia** and **Jake Cuenca.**

Just like the episode's title, Jake has switched homes. He's no longer a "Kapuso" but a "Kapamilya." The rigodon of stars is already de rigueur in the biz. It kinda makes you wonder if loyalty has gone out of style.

Be that as it may, Jake is happy now that he will see more of Angelica. "She's my crush. Even when I was still with GMA, *nagpaparamdam na ko.* But since we were on different networks, we don't get to see each other often. Now that I'm with ABS, I have a chance to really pursue her." But he admits that he misses his former Kapuso co-stars, especially **Jennylyn Mercado**. "I almost courted her but I didn't want it to be love on the rebound for her. *Kasi* I was her shoulder to cry on after she broke up with **Mark Herras.** Now *naman sila na 'ata ni* **Patrick Garcia** so *diyahe naman* if I still court her. *Basta* I will always have special feelings for Jen."

As for Angelica, she's relishing her newfound freedom. "Now *ko lang na*-experience *makipagdate sa iba.* For the longest time, my world revolved around Carlo." It's been four months since she split up with **Carlo Aquino.** She's not yet emotionally ready for another romance so Jake has to wait. "*Marami pa kaming pagdadaanan ni* Jake. *Ayoko ng ligaw agad.* Friends *muna.*"

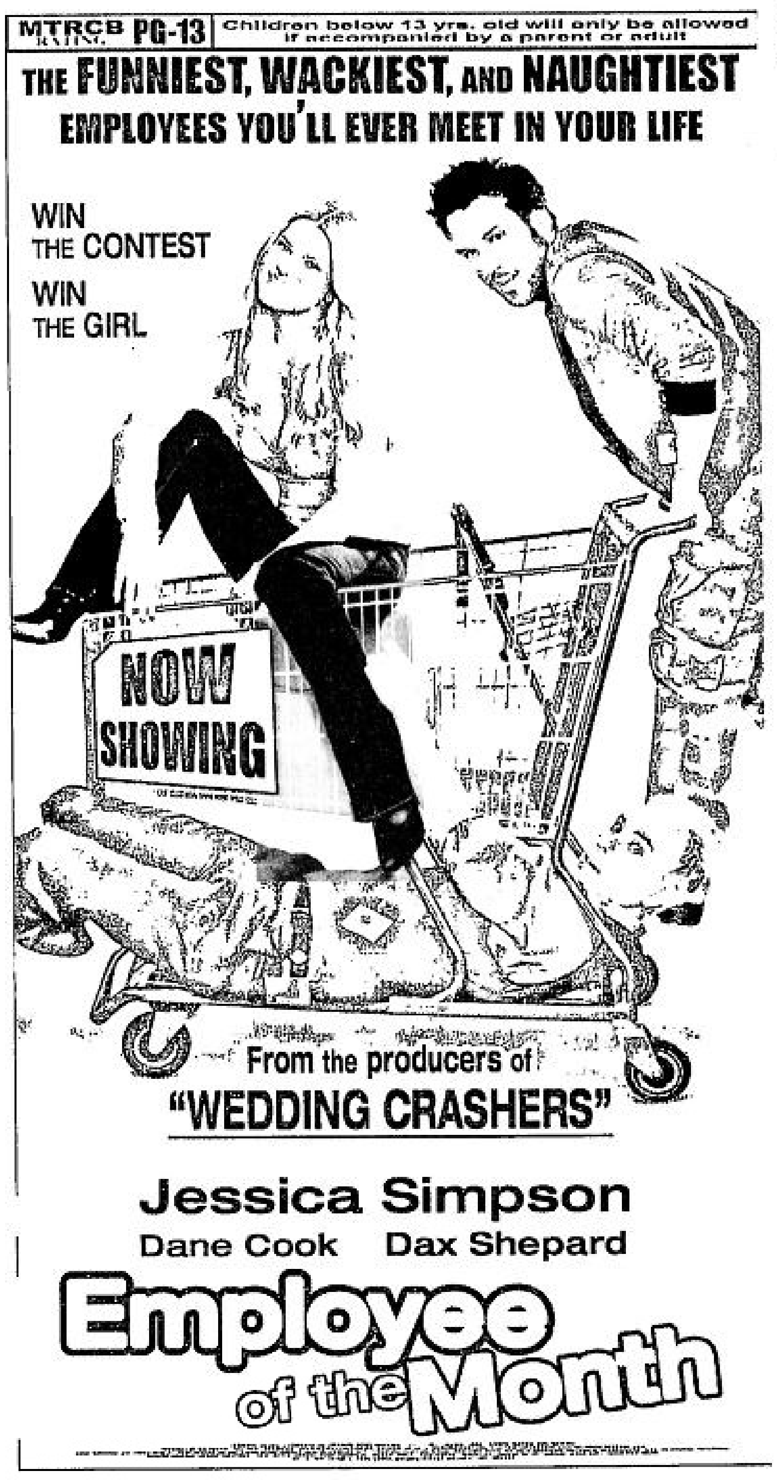
Kaibigan... Kasintahan... Kapuso... Kapamilya? One love fits all!

Turning Japanese

The Sexbomb girls turn into "Haponesas" every 'hapon' starting Oct. 23 (1:15pm) in the

CLEAN/ E3

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult


THE FUNNIEST, WACKIEST, AND NAUGHTIEST EMPLOYEES YOU'LL EVER MEET IN YOUR LIFE
WIN THE CONTEST
WIN THE GIRL
NOW SHOWING
From the producers of "WEDDING CRASHERS"
Jessica Simpson
Dane Cook Dax Shepard
Employee of the Month

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification please call 729 7777

G1	GLORIETTA 1	1 TXT	2 WORLD TRADE CENTER	3 THE BANQUET	4 TILL I MET YOU			
G4	GLORIETTA 4	1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	3 THX CLOSED FOR RENOVATION GUARANTEED SEATS	4 GREEN STREET HOOLIGANS	5 BARNYARD	6 WORLD TRADE CENTER	7 TIL I MET YOU
GB1	GREENBELT 1	1 THE GUARDIAN	2 TILL I MET YOU					
GB3	GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE DEPARTED GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX WORLD TRADE CENTER GUARANTEED SEATS	3 THE BANQUET GUARANTEED SEATS	4 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX WORLD TRADE CENTER GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THE GUARDIAN	3 THE DEPARTED	4 BARNYARD	5 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH		
ACC	AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 WORLD TRADE CENTER	2 STEP UP	3 TXT	4 TIL I MET YOU			
M2	MARKET! MARKET!	1 TXT	2 WORLD TRADE CENTER	3 BARNYARD	4 TIL I MET YOU	5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION		

At the Activity Center

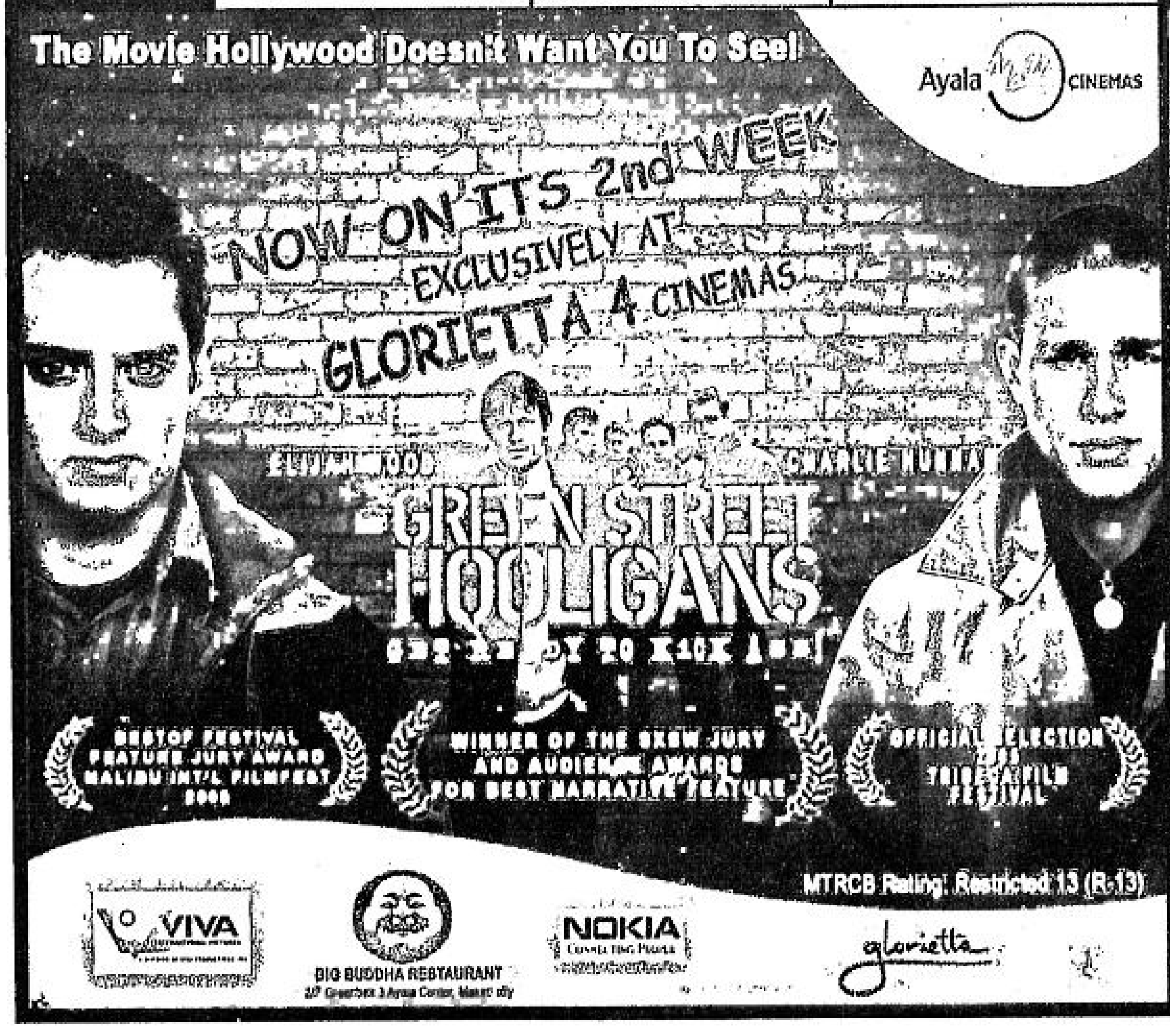
Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 9pm
Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 9pm
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

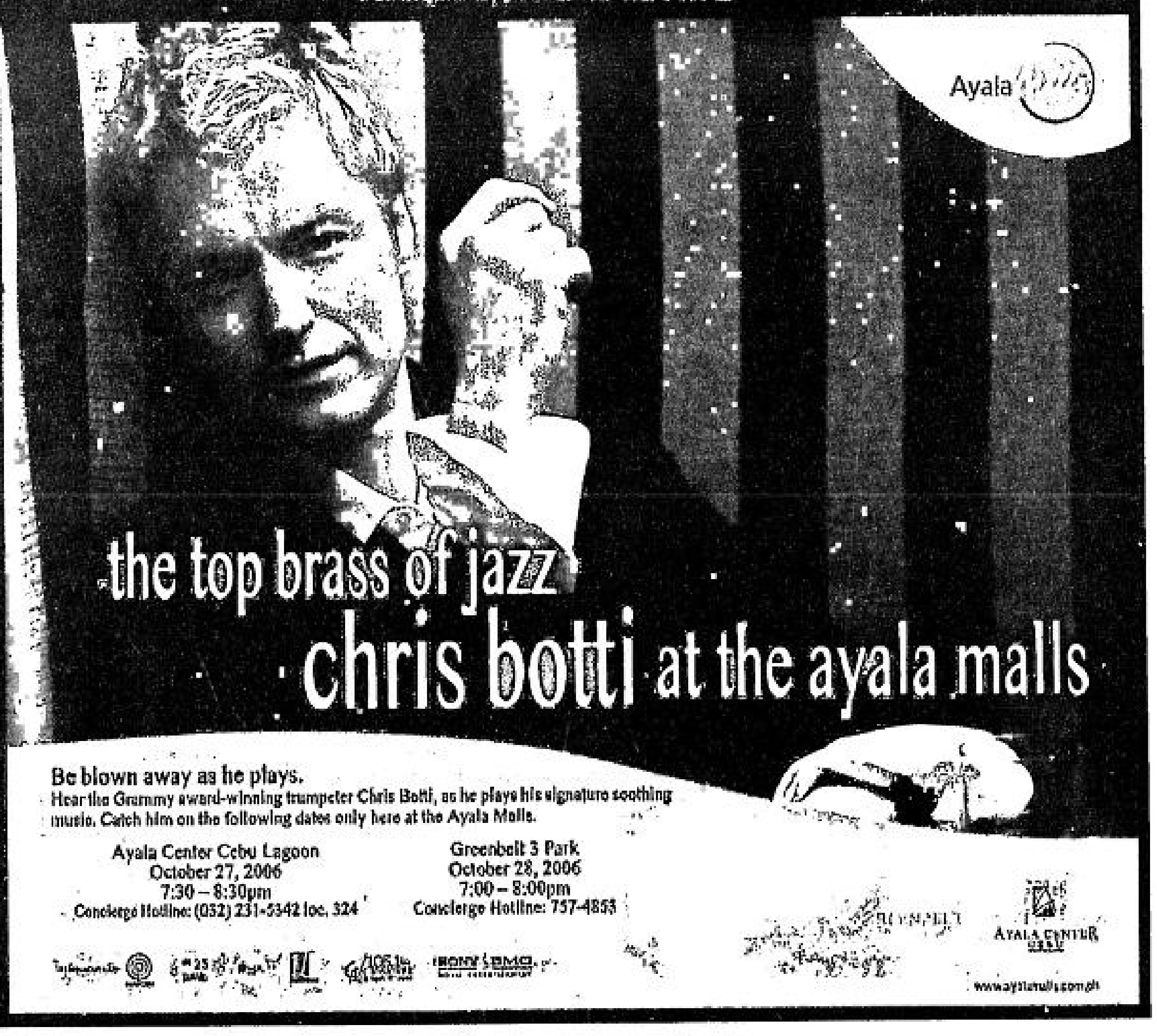
GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Anson's Exhibit October 5 to 21, 2006	Automatic Center Exhibit October 13 to 27, 2007
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Woodridge's United Nation Celebration October 25, 2006	Laguna Expo October 22 to 28, 2006

GREENBELT — Lounge Nights at Greenbelt 2
October 25, 2006

Onstage — Repertory Philippines presents Walt Disney's ALADDIN Jr.
at REP's Globe Theater - October 9 to 29, 2006

Ayala MUSEUM — 19th - 20th Century Philippine Art from Ayala Museum Collection
On-going until January 2007
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org


The Movie Hollywood Doesn't Want You To See!
Ayala CINEMAS
NOW ON ITS 2nd WEEK
EXCLUSIVELY AT
GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS
GREEN STREET HOOLIGANS
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)
VIVA
BIG BUDDHA RESTAURANT
NOKIA
glorietta


Ayala Malls
the top brass of jazz
chris botti at the ayala malls
AYALA CENTER
www.ayalamalls.com.ph

Be blown away as he plays.
Hear the Grammy award-winning trumpeter Chris Botti, as he plays his signature soothing music. Catch him on the following dates only here at the Ayala Malls.

Ayala Center Cebu Lagoon
October 27, 2006
7:30 – 8:30pm
Concierge Hotline: (032) 231-5342 loc. 324

Greenbelt 3 Park
October 28, 2006
7:00 – 8:00pm
Concierge Hotline: 757-4853